

Statement by DaVita Patient Citizens

The recent *Journal of the American Medical Association* article “Dialysis Facility Ownership and Epoetin Dosing in Patients Receiving Hemodialysis” has again brought the issue of anemia management for dialysis patients to the forefront for discussion.

DaVita Patient Citizens (DPC) encourages the continued discussion on anemia management with the goal of improved patient care and increased quality of life for dialysis patients. It is vital that the patient’s voice be heard on the critical issue of anemia management for *patients*. Anemia management is a vital component of patient care. Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) have been one of the major breakthroughs in dialysis and anemia management. Their use has dramatically decreased the need for multiple blood transfusions and greatly increased the quality of life for dialysis patients everywhere.

Anemia management needs to be dealt with by the nephrologist, and the patient. While the cost to the government and the taxpayers is an important issue that legislators need to consider, they also must ensure patients receive quality healthcare. Financial concerns should not determine how well patients’ anemia is managed. That decision is best made by the physician in consultation with the patient.