ACP does not support measure NQF 1666: “Adult Kidney Disease: Patients on Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agent (ESA) – Hemoglobin Level > 12 g/dL.” According to the ACP guideline, there is no benefit for higher compared to lower (ranging from 9 to 11.3 g/dL) hemoglobin targets in patients with comorbid CKD and heart disease, and aggressive ESA use to normalize hemoglobin was associated with increased the risk of venous thromboembolic events and suggested increased mortality rates. The KDOQI Guideline on CKD patients with anemia recommends target hemoglobin levels in the range of 11.0 to 12.0g/dL in patients receiving ESA therapy.

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