



The DOPPS is a prospective cohort study of hemodialysis practices based on the collection of observational longitudinal data for a random sample of patients from a representative and random sample of units in 12 countries. Data collection for the study has been ongoing since 1996 and has yielded detailed data on more than 40,000 patients in over 900 dialysis facilities.

DOPPS 1 (1996-2001) included seven countries: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. DOPPS 2 (2002-2004) and DOPPS 3 (2005-2008) included twelve countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. DOPPS 4, the next three-year phase of the study beginning in 2009, will collect data in these same 12 countries.

The DOPPS is coordinated by Arbor Research Collaborative for Health, Ann Arbor, MI USA. The DOPPS is supported by scientific grants from a consortium of industry partners, including Amgen, Inc. (majority sponsor), Kyowa Hakko Kirin, Abbott Laboratories, and Genzyme Corp., without restrictions on publications.

Please contact the DOPPS Coordinating Center for more information about DOPPS publications, abstracts, and public-use slides on mortality, hospitalization, vascular access, and quality of life.

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The Arbor Research Collaborative for Health conducts large studies in epidemiology and public health. With particular expertise in biostatistical analysis, clinical practice, the management and integration of large datasets, economics, and public policy, Arbor Research engages in health outcomes research on chronic disease and end-stage organ failure. Current projects include the international Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study ([www.dopps.org](http://www.dopps.org)), the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients ([www.ustransplant.org](http://www.ustransplant.org)), and numerous studies for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Formerly known as the University Renal Research and Education Association (URREA), Arbor Research is a not-for-profit organization based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

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# The Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS)



## DOPPS Accomplishments

More than 90 manuscripts have been published in leading journals, and DOPPS has presented at numerous congresses and to various government policy-making agencies. Some accomplishments include:

DOPPS findings have been used to validate and refine clinical practice guidelines, and have helped identify areas for new guidelines

- DOPPS data have proven highly useful in the recent globalization efforts of KDIGO, which is developing clinical practice guidelines at the international level
- Japan DOPPS results were used by the Japanese Guideline Committees for Anemia and Bone Disease/Mineral Metabolism in developing new clinical practice guidelines in 2006 and 2007, respectively

Findings from DOPPS have been presented to federal policy agencies and other regulatory agencies around the world

- DOPPS data have led to the systematic revision of Clinical Performance Measures used by CMS to evaluate hemodialysis patient care

DOPPS symposia are regularly featured on the scientific programs of major national and international renal conferences.

Invited symposia and other presentations (more than 200 in total) have been given at such venues as the ASN, EDTA, the ISN/WCN, and many others.

## Study Design and Process Highlights for DOPPS 4

- The duration of data collection will average 2½ years, since the DOPPS 4 study period begins in 2009 and continues through 2011.
- Data collection schedules will occur on a calendar basis, to maximize the value of international comparisons. Data collection instruments will be refocused annually, to assess new policies, practices, or other technologies over specific time frames.
- Replacement of patients no longer receiving dialysis in a DOPPS facility will occur three times yearly, enabling the DOPPS to evaluate the impact of policy changes on practice and outcomes.
- The DOPPS compensates participating centers for data collection, on a per-questionnaire basis. On average, the typical facility can expect to be compensated about \$8,000-\$9,000 annually, about a 10% increase compared to DOPPS 3.
- Annually, each center will receive facility-specific feedback reports regarding outcomes, quality assurance and comparison to national and international outcomes.
- Participating centers will receive the new DOPPS International Annual Report that highlights trends in practices, reports new study findings, and evaluates the impact of new policies and guidelines.
- All facilities will have the opportunity to use the web-based, *DOPPSLink* electronic data collection system, rather than paper-based questionnaires (though paper will remain an option).
- An important operational enhancement to DOPPS 4 is the addition of Task Forces, which are groups of experts in specific content areas who will guide the DOPPS research agenda. Task Forces also will guide development of questionnaire content in high-priority areas such as anemia, mineral bone disease, and cardiovascular disease.

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