



PRESS RELEASE

ASN Contact: Christine Feheley
(202) 640-4638 | cfeheley@asn-online.org

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
NOVEMBER 8, 2025 AT 4:30 PM CST**

Conservative Care Versus Dialysis: Model Indicates Which Is Best for Individual Patients with Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease

Highlights

- Researchers developed and validated a model that estimates individualized survival probabilities with conservative management versus dialysis in patients with advanced chronic kidney disease.
- The findings will be presented at American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Kidney Week 2025 November 5–9.

Houston, TX (November 8, 2025) — It can be challenging to identify which patients with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) will most benefit from conservative care rather than initiating dialysis. Researchers recently developed and validated a prediction model to estimate individualized survival probabilities with conservative non-dialytic management versus dialysis in patients with advanced CKD from the national Veterans Affairs and OptumLabs® Data Warehouse databases. The work will be presented at ASN Kidney Week 2025 November 5–9.

Investigators found that among veterans with advanced CKD who received dialytic versus non-dialytic management, certain factors were linked to higher mortality risk, including older age; higher baseline and more rapid decline in estimated glomerular filtration rate; higher albuminuria levels; worse frailty indices; lower serum albumin and lower body mass index; recent hospitalization; underlying heart disease, sepsis, or tobacco use; and dialysis transition.

“This new risk prediction tool was developed to estimate the individualized probability of survival with conservative non-dialytic management versus dialysis transition, which demonstrated moderate discrimination (the ability to accurately differentiate between those at higher versus lower risk) and acceptable calibration performance (the degree of agreement between the predicted mortality risk probability and the actual observed probability of death) in two national cohorts of patients with advanced CKD,” said corresponding author Connie Rhee, MD, MSc, of the University of California Los Angeles and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. “This study was conducted as part of the NIH-funded ‘Defining Optimal Transitions of Care in Advanced

1401 H Street, NW • Suite 900 Washington, DC 20005
202.640.4665 • www.asn-online.org

Kidney Disease: Conservative Management vs. Dialysis Approaches (OPTIMAL)' study, in which our objective is to establish a stronger evidence base for conservative non-dialytic management in the advanced CKD population. By rigorously studying the comparative effectiveness of conservative management versus dialysis transition, findings from our and others' research have the potential to expand viable, patient-centric treatment options for CKD. We aim for this tool and other approaches to support and enhance the shared decision-making process regarding conservative management versus dialysis initiation among patients, care partners, and health care providers."

Study: "Development and Validation of a Mortality Prediction Model for Conservative Management (CM) vs. Dialysis in Advanced CKD: Analysis of Two National Cohorts"

Join ASN and approximately 12,000 other kidney professionals from across the globe at Kidney Week 2025 in Houston, TX. The world's premier nephrology meeting, Kidney Week, provides participants with exciting and challenging opportunities to exchange knowledge, learn the latest scientific and medical advances, and listen to engaging and provocative discussions with leading experts in the field. Early programs begin on November 5, followed by the Annual Meeting from November 6-9. Follow the conversation at #KidneyWk.

About the American Society of Nephrology (ASN)

Since 1966, ASN has been leading the fight to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases throughout the world by educating health professionals and scientists, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge and advocating for the highest quality care for patients. ASN has nearly 22,000 members representing 141 countries. For more information, visit www.asn-online.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

###