Transplant vs. Dialysis: Annual Cost Savings for Medicare
CES Intern Alison Economy, April 27, 2014

2010 Data:¹
- One year of dialysis cost $87,561
- One year of transplant care cost $32,914.
- $54,647 in taxpayer money saved per patient annually if transplant replaces dialysis
- Over five years, Medicare saves $273,235 per patient

Comprehensive Savings Model
2002 cost comparison of dialysis and transplant analyzed aggregate savings from society’s perspective, with factors including:
- Cost on dialysis
- Cost of organ acquisition
- Cost of return to dialysis for transplantation
- Cost of transplant
- Death after graft loss
- Death with function
- Graft survival
- Maintenance costs with graft function
- Patient survival

Adding Quality-Adjusted Life Years

That model assigned social value to quality-adjusted life years and found $94,579 in annual savings, (1-year calculation period)² a number likely higher in 2014.

¹ All figures in publication from Sally Satel, 2014.