

Appendix 2: List of outcomes rated using a Likert Scale of 1-9 (GRADE approach)

S.No.	Critical outcomes (7 to 9)	Rating
	Change in haemoglobin level	8.08
	Transferrin saturation	7
	All-cause mortality	8.15
	Cardiovascular mortality	8.38
	Cerebrovascular mortality	7.08
	Iron supplementation	7.23
	Blood transfusion	7.15
	Need for Erythropoietin Stimulating Agent (ESA)	7.77
	Health related quality of life (any validated tool)	7.92
	Improvement in symptoms (appetite/ muscle weakness)	7.92
	Fatigue (as defined by study authors, or as defined by scales such as Fatigue assessment scale)	7.85
	Blood pressure	7.23
	Major adverse cardiac events (MACE)- the composite of total death; Myocardial Infarction (MI); stroke, hospitalization because of MI or Stroke.	8.46
	MACE plus – composite of MACE, worsening or any procedure for peripheral vascular disease, hospitalization for angina, or performance of coronary revascularization	8.46
	Infection – sepsis, pneumonia, serious infection	7.46
	Dyspnea/ Breathlessness	7.15
	Treatment emergent adverse events (AEs)	7.46
	Withdrawal due to adverse event	7.23
	Important outcomes (4 to 6)	
	Time taken to reach target haemoglobin level	6.62
	Change in haematocrit value	6.77
	Change in serum erythropoietin (EPO) level	4.31
	Serum iron level	6.54
	Total iron binding capacity	6.54
	Ferritin levels	6.77
	Iron repletion status	6.92
	Thrombovascular mortality	6.85
	Time to rescue therapy	6.69
	Average ESA dose or use	6.69
	Change in the ESA dose from baseline	6.15
	Change in estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)	6.46
	Change in serum creatinine level	6.08
	Change in stage of CKD	6.38
	Progression to end stage kidney disease (defined by stage 5 CKD)	6.62

	Glycosylated haemoglobin (HbA1c)	5.46
	Total cholesterol level	5.46
	Triglyceride level	5.23
	Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol level	5.38
	High-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol level	5.15
	Hyperkalaemia	6.77
	Incidence of adverse events (any)	6.92
	Seizures	6.54
	Proportion of patients with Serious Adverse Events (SAEs)	6.92
	Long term side effects (Cancer, effects on iron metabolism)	6.54
	Hepatic impairment or changes in liver function tests (LFT)	5.92
	Progression of diabetic retinopathy or other retinal disease	6.46