Additional file 4: Reasons Why Primary Studies Included in the European guideline by Farrington and in Four Systematic Reviews are Not Included in Our Review

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| Studies | Reason for exclusion |
| **Brown 2015 (1)** | Different study population: comparing pre-dialysis patients with non-dialysis patients |
| **Chan 2007 (2)** | No comparator: only CKM patients |
| **De Biase 2008 (3)** | Low quality of evidence: does not report p value, SD or CI |
| **Echevers 2016 (4)** | Different language: only in Spanish |
| **Ellam 2009 (5)** | No comparator: only CKM patients |
| **Gràcia-Garcia 2012 (6)** | No comparator: only CKM patients |
| **Isaacs 2012 (7)** | No comparator: only dialysis patients, Polish register report |
| **Murphy 2009 (8)** | No comparator: only CKM patients |
| **Murtagh 2007 (9)** | No comparator: only CKM patients |
| **Murtagh 2010 (10)** | No comparator: only CKM patients |
| **Rodriguez 2014 (11)** | Different outcome: which patients opt for CKM and which patients opt for dialysis |
| **Saini 2006 (12)** | Different comparator: comparing CKM patients with terminally ill malignancy patients |
| **Seow 2013 (13)** | Different comparator: excludes dialysis patients primarily; comparing CKM patients with patients initially opting for CKM, but later starting dialysis |
| **Wong 2007 (14)** | No comparator: only CKM patients |

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