May 12, 2012

Dear Dr.____________________,  

We had the pleasure of participating in the care of ______________________________ while _______________________ was hospitalized recently at ____________________ hospital. In our medication review we found that he/she is not on statin therapy. A growing body of literature, as summarized in a meta-analysis¹, has demonstrated that statin therapy is beneficial in reducing morbidity and mortality in patients with peripheral vascular disease (PAD). This benefit has been shown to extend to patients undergoing carotid surgery, lower extremity bypass surgery, and abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery, regardless of cholesterol level.

Given the recent data, we wish to increase statin use in all patients with vascular disease. We would like to ask you to consider the significance of the patient’s reported allergy and whether it might be appropriate to try statin therapy again. This initiative to optimize statin use in patients with vascular disease is a component of the Southern California Vascular Outcomes Improvement Collaborative (So Cal VOICE), in which I am a member and active participant. The So Cal VOICE is a regional voluntary cooperative group of vascular disease specialists dedicated to improving outcomes and advancing the care of vascular patients. Our regional group is part of a national network of quality improvement organizations sponsored by the Society for Vascular Surgery.

As always, if you have any questions please contact me at ______________, and I would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

http://www.vascularweb.org/regionalgoups/VOICE/Pages/Participating-Hospitals.aspx
http://www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/