

May 12, 2012

Dear \_\_\_\_\_patient \_\_\_\_\_,

As we discussed in the office, we have started you on a new medication called benazepril. This is one of a class of medications called "ACE-inhibitors". ACE-inhibitors have been shown to be effective in reducing the risk of stroke, heart attack and death in patients with peripheral arterial disease, carotid artery disease and aneurysmal disease.

ACE-inhibitors are typically used to lower blood pressure. ACE-inhibitors also make atherosclerotic plaques (cholesterol build-up in blood vessels) more stable, so they are less likely to break apart and cause heart attacks or stroke. This occurs even in patients with normal blood pressure levels. Therefore, all people with vascular disease benefit from taking an ace inhibitor.

We are also sending a letter to your primary care physician to inform him or her of your new medication and to help monitor for side effects, which are rare. It is important to notify our office or your primary doctor if you develop a cough or severe swelling.

This initiative to optimize ACE-inhibitor 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 our office at \_\_\_\_\_, and we would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

