(DATE)

Dear Dr.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

We had the pleasure of participating in the care of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was hospitalized recently at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hospital. In our medication review we noticed he/she is not on ACE-inhibitor therapy. A growing body of literature has demonstrated that ACE-inhibitors are beneficial in reducing morbidity and mortality in patients with peripheral vascular disease, regardless of the presence or absence of hypertension. ACE-inhibitors are contraindicated in patients with bilateral renal artery stenosis or renal failure, neither of which our patient has evidence or history of.

Accordingly, during the hospitalization, we started our shared patient on benazepril 5 mg daily. As you know, side effects from ACE-inhibitors are rare, but include hypotension, renal impairment, angioedema, cough and anaphylactoid reactions. We ask for your assistance in monitoring for these effects in future office visits with our patient.

This initiative to optimize ACE-inhibitor use in patients with vascular disease is a component of the **So**uthern **Cal**ifornia **V**ascular **O**utcomes **I**mprovement **C**ollaborativ**e** (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.vascularqualityinitiative.org

1. The Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation Study Investigators. Effects of an angiotensin-converting­enzyme Inhibitor, ramipril, on cardiovascular events in high-risk patients. N Engl J Med. 2000;342(3):145­

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2. Coppola G, Romano G, Corrado, E, Grisanti RM, Novo S. Peripheral artery disease: potential role of ACE-inhibitor therapy. Vasc Health Risk Manag. 2008;4(6):1439-47.