

May 12, 2012

Dear _____ patient _____,

As we discussed during your recent hospitalization, we have started you on a daily low-dose aspirin. This is one of a class of medications called “anti-platelet therapy”. Anti-platelet therapy has been shown to be beneficial in reducing the risk of heart attack, stroke and vascular death in patients with peripheral arterial disease.

Aspirin is typically used to treat pain. At low doses, aspirin also makes atherosclerotic plaques (cholesterol build-up in blood vessels) more stable, so they are less likely to break apart and cause heart attacks or stroke. 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 any bleeding problems.

This initiative to optimize anti-platelet 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,



<http://www.vascularweb.org/regionalgroups/VOICE/Pages/Participating-Hospitals.aspx>
<http://www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/>