(DATE)

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

As we discussed during your recent hospitalization, we have started you on a new

medication called metoprolol. This is on one of a class of medications called “beta blockers”. Beta blockers have been shown to be effective in reducing the risk of heart attack and death in patients with heart disease, peripheral arterial disease (PAD) and aneurysmal disease, especially those having surgery for these conditions.

This medicine works by stabilizing the heart. Beta blockers lower blood pressure and slow pulse rate. The protective effect occurs even in people with normal blood pressure levels. Therefore, all people with PAD and /or aneurysmal disease benefit from taking a beta blocker.

We are also sending a letter to your primary care physician to inform him or her of your new medication. It is important to notify our office or your primary doctor if you develop light-headedness or fainting after starting metoprolol.

This initiative to increase beta blocker 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 our office at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and we would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,



http://www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/