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THE IMPACT OF A PHARMACIST IN POST-DISCHARGE HEART FAILURE PATIENTS (B1), Gina Kim, Jennifer Chen, Shirley Chao, Barry Massie, John Teerlink, Susan Ammon, James Prempeh. VA Medical Center, San Francisco, CA, (gina.kim@va.gov) IRB approved.

Pharmacists are in the ideal position to help manage patients with heart failure (HF) as the disease is largely affected by medication management. Pharmacists' responsibilities in managing HF can include medication education, compliance assessment, and adherence counseling or aid. The objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of a pharmacist's intervention in patients discharged with newly diagnosed HF or HF exacerbation. In this study, a pharmacist will provide intermittent telephone follow-up to patients, for a total of 8 weeks, after being discharged from the hospital. During each telephone follow-up, the pharmacist will assess the patient's understanding of his/her medications, provide medication counseling, and answer medication-related questions. The impact of a pharmacist in post-discharge medication education to patients with HF will be measured by patient quality of life questionnaires taken before and after the pharmacist's intervention, patient satisfaction questionnaires, which will be analyzed after the conclusion of the study, and the number and types of pharmacist interventions. The total number of emergency department visits, clinic visits, or hospital readmissions associated with HF exacerbation during the 90 days following the initial

discharge and the potential cost savings will also be measured. Preliminary data will be presented.