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EVALUATING EZETIMIBE USE

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IRB approval received.

In January 2008 preliminary results of the Ezetimibe and Simvastatin in Hypercholesterolemia Enhances Atherosclerosis Regressions (ENHANCE) trial were announced. Soon after the national Veterans Affairs Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) made recommendations on ezetimibe prescribing practice. A retrospective chart review of patients at the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VA GLAHS) was performed to evaluate changes in ezetimibe use before and after the recommendation's release. The primary outcome included changes in provider prescribing practices of ezetimibe, which are defined as submitting a VA GLAHS PBM consult for approval to use non-formulary ezetimibe, or discontinuing ezetimibe not due to patient allergies or adverse events. Patients were followed individually

from when they started ezetimibe to either discontinuation of ezetimibe or the end of the evaluation period. Lipid lowering effects were determined by a decrease, increase, or no change in the lipid panel (cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL, and HDL). Clinical data on major cardiovascular events or new cancer diagnoses that result during the patients' monotherapy of ezetimibe or combination therapy of ezetimibe and simvastatin therapy were also collected. Patients were excluded if they were on lipid lowering agents other than ezetimibe and simvastatin, or non-adherent. Results and conclusions to be presented.