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SSRI PROPHYLAXIS VS. RESCUE TREATMENT OF INTERFERON INDUCED DEPRESSION IN HEPATITIS C PATIENTS (A1), Septima Hong, Jim Chan, Michele Spence, Mirta Millares. Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program, Downey, CA (septima.b.hong@kp.org) IRB approved.

Patients receiving combination therapy with peginterferon and ribavirin for chronic hepatitis C may experience interferon induced depression. The onset of depression may lead to discontinuation of hepatitis C medications and subsequent treatment failure. SSRI prophylaxis before initiation of hepatitis C treatment or rescue treatment after depression develops are possible strategies reported in the medical literature. It is unclear which one is a more effective approach to managing interferon induced depression and how each strategy ultimately affects hepatitis C virologic treatment success. We hypothesize there is no difference in achieving treatment success between SSRI prophylaxis or rescue treatment. This is a retrospective cohort study using the Program's electronic databases to evaluate the incidence of SSRI prophylaxis vs. rescue treatment in patients receiving peginterferon and ribavirin for hepatitis C, compare the likelihood of achieving treatment success between these two groups, and determine the most cost effective strategy. Treatment success is defined as sustained virologic response after treatment and 6 months thereafter. Of 4055 patients identified, 201 patients were in the prophylaxis group and 994 patients in the rescue group. Mean age was 49 years for both groups and mostly male (61.2% and

65.9%, respectively). Multivariable logistic regression modeling and decision analytic modeling will be used to analyze the data. Results will be presented.