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COST EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF THE CONVERSION FROM IRBESARTAN TO LOSARTAN AT THE NEW MEXICO VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM (C1) Tricia Mai, P. David Pacheco. New Mexico Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, Albuquerque, NM (Tricia.Mai@va.gov) IRB approval pending.

In August 2008, the New Mexico Veterans Affairs Healthcare System's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has approved the Pharmacy Service to implement the therapeutic interchange program from irbesartan to losartan. The objective of this study was to evaluate whether the therapeutic interchange provides cost-savings to the facility, and maintains equivalent antihypertensive effectiveness without causing significant changes in serum potassium or serum creatinine levels. This retrospective study reviewed medical records of patients prescribed irbesartan who were converted to a therapeutically equivalent dose of losartan between 11/01/08 and 12/31/08. The cost-savings outcome was determined by calculating the difference between the total cost of irbesartan and losartan pre and post conversion. The pharmacist's time required completing the conversion was evaluated and included in the total cost-savings projections. The average values of blood pressure, serum creatinine, and serum potassium of pre and post conversion were also analyzed. The results and conclusions will be presented.

