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SLO-NIACIN VERSUS VYTORIN IN HIGH RISK
CARDIOVASCULAR PATIENTS WITH
UNCONTROLLED HYPERLIPIDEMIA (A3), Janice
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The recent controversy over the cardiovascular benefit of ezetimibe/simvastatin (Vytorin) has led healthcare providers to consider alternative combinations of drugs for the management of hyperlipidemia. Kaiser Permanente recently implemented a new lipid management guideline that adds controlled release niacin (Slo-Niacin) to patients uncontrolled on a maximum dose of simvastatin 80 mg daily. The previous version of the guideline utilized ezetimibe/simvastatin instead of controlled release niacin in the same patient group. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the clinical outcomes, side effect profile, and cost differences between the combination of ezetimibe and simvastatin versus the combination of controlled release niacin and simvastatin. The study was conducted at the Kaiser Permanente Daly City Medical Office and South San Francisco Medical Center. The study population included adults at high risk for cardiovascular disease who were uncontrolled on maximal doses of simvastatin and were then either switched to ezetimibe/simvastatin or had controlled release niacin added to simvastatin. Patients with a history of liver disease or rhabdomyolysis were excluded from analysis. Data was collected retrospectively and included data between July 2007 and March 2009. Data collected include changes in low density lipoprotein (LDL), triglycerides (TG), high density lipoprotein (HDL), liver

enzyme tests, creatine phosphokinase (CPK) (when available), and a cost comparison between the two regimens. Results and conclusion will be reported.