

## **Position Statement from North Cascade Cardiology regarding the recent results from the ENCHANCE Study.**

The results of a large study were recently announced to the public comparing the cholesterol-lowering medication simvastatin (zocor) with medications containing ezetimibe (zetia and Vytorin). The news coverage of this study (known as the “Enhance” study) has been intense. The following points outline North Cascade Cardiology position at this time.

1. The full details of the study have not been released. A full review of all the study details will be necessary before any definite recommendations can be made about continued use of zetia/ezetimibe or Vytorin. We do not know when the full results will be released.
2. The media have reported the study results in a misleading and incorrect manner. The study compared plaque thickness in the carotid arteries (NOT the heart arteries) between patients taking the different cholesterol-lowering medications. There was in fact NO DIFFERENCE in changes in plaque between the different medications. There also was NO DIFFERENCE in the chance of a heart attack between the different medications. There were NO IMPORTANT safety problems with the zetia/ezetimibe or Vytorin.
3. We currently recommend that patients taking zetia (ezetimibe) or Vytorin DO NOT stop or change medications. They should continue taking the medications without interruption. Each patient’s cholesterol lowering program will be discussed individually with their doctor, nurse practitioner, or at Lipid Clinic at their next routine visit.