

Anticoagulants (Warfarin, acenocoumarol, phenindione)

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| Reference | How To Guide 22 | |
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1. Purpose

Patients taking warfarin or other anticoagulants (acenocoumarol [sinthrome[®]] and phenindione) need regular blood monitoring and adjustment of their dosage to maintain their international normalised ratio (INR) within their defined range. Initiation and subsequent dosing is undertaken by local anticoagulant clinics.

Anticoagulant clinics will issue patients the full anticoagulant therapy information pack at the start of treatment, i.e. at the first appointment to initiate warfarin.

- The yellow books are intended to be patient held and should not be retained by the warfarin clinic
- All INR results and the current recommended dose should be entered into the record book

2. Procedure

When receiving a repeat prescription request for anticoagulants:

- Check in 'investigations' at the top of the Emis screen to check when the last INR was done, unless the most recent INR has been attached to the prescription request. All INR information should be scanned to the patient record before prescriptions are submitted.
- An example of an INR in investigations that is in target range (2.0 -3.0) is as follows;

22-Mar-2018

International normalised ratio

2.2 (GJP5664) - 2.2

Results obtained in clinic. For information only. No action required.

Target Range 2.0 - 3.0

Reason for Anticoagulant - Mech Valve Repl - Aortic

Dose: Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

2 2 2 2 2 2 2

WARFARIN MG PER DAY

Next Appointment: 03/05/2018 at :

For information only, no action required.

- Take care to look at the time line for test results. The result should display the date when the result was obtained and when the next INR is due. The request for warfarin must fall between these two dates. For example if the record says:

Target INR 2.0-3.0. Your INR is 2.2 on 22nd March 2018. Your next INR is due on 3rd May 2018

AND the request for warfarin is received the 3rd of May 2018 (or later) this result is no longer valid and the patient must be referred back to the anticoagulant clinic to obtain an up to date INR. If a prescription is urgently needed, speak to a prescriber.

- Once this has been checked send the request to the GP as normal ensuring there is a task comment with the recent INR result and date.
- If the result is in range this can be noted as per below, however if the result is not in range the GP should be made aware.

The screenshot shows a medical system interface. At the top, there is a red warning triangle icon followed by the text "Warfarin 3mg tablets TAKE AS DIRECTED IN THE YELLOW ANTICOAGULATION BOOK, 56 tablet". Below this, there is a speech bubble icon and the text "Underused (65%)". To the right of this text is a blue link labeled "Override Reason". The main part of the screenshot is a task comment field with the text "Task Comment: INR 2.2- 22/03/18- In range". This field is circled in red. Below the task comment field, there are several icons and buttons: a printer icon, a "Scripts" button, a "Store" button, a "Postdate" dropdown menu, and a date field showing "10-Apr-2018".

- If you are not able to obtain the required information because it has not been provided or cannot be accessed via the electronic system you must contact the patient or carer. If unsuccessful consider contacting the requesting pharmacy or anticoagulant clinic to obtain the required information.

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