

Dual Anti-platelet Procedure for Medicine Co-ordinators

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1. Purpose

Patients are usually prescribed dual anti-platelets (DAP's) after a cardiac event such as a NSTEMI/STEMI/PCI.

They are likely be prescribed aspirin and another drug; either ticagrelor, clopidogrel or prasugrel and are usually also started on a gastro-protective medication such as a proton pump inhibitor e.g. lansoprazole.

The length of time they are prescribed DAP therapy is normally 12 months – after this time the risks of a bleed could outweigh any benefits. However, this can vary - some patients are only on DAP for three months and some are lifelong.

The cardiologist treating the patient in hospital determines the length of time the patient is on DAP therapy for – details of this is normally found on the hospital discharge.

The Medicine Coordinator should search for patients who are prescribed DAP's and identify those that have been on DAP therapy for almost a year. **These patients should be referred to a pharmacist for review**, which usually results in one of the anti-platelets being stopped. The PPI may also be reduced or stopped at this point.

The search should be run every month, ideally at the beginning of the month.

2. Procedure

Running the search on EMIS

- EMIS ball/reporting/population reporting
- Find the saved DAP search
- Run the search (the magnifying glass)
- Click on Auto to do an Auto report
- Change the name of the auto report to show the month and year (highlight/right click/properties)
- Highlight the auto report and view results
- Export/tick 'exclude report header'/OK
- Save into a DAP folder on the practice shared drive

You then need to update the ongoing DAP spreadsheet

- Add any new patients identified from the search
- **Refer any patients that are due to stop DAP this month to a pharmacist for review**. This can be done by sending an EMIS task to a pharmacist.
- Later on in the month, check that the DAP has been stopped and report the savings.

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