

**Warfarin High Risk
Medicine Assessment**

Patient Name: _____

CHI: _____

Contact No: _____

Concordance

Is the patient taking their Warfarin as prescribed? Yes No

Does the patient know what to do if they miss a dose? Yes No

Does the patient have the patient information and recording booklets and alert card and do they use them? Yes No

It may be useful to use a yellow oral anticoagulant therapy book as a reference throughout the consultation. Warfarin doses are normally taken in the evening. If the patient misses a dose then:

- Take if they remember to within a few hours or omit if not remembered until the next day
- Explain who to contact if a greater dose is taken
- Missed doses should be documented in the Oral Anticoagulant Therapy Record Book and discussed with the anticoagulant clinic at the next appointment
- A dose should **never** be doubled.

Actions:

- **Check the patient's understanding of how and when to take their Warfarin using the Warfarin information booklet as a prompt for counselling the patient. Always avoid jargon when talking to patients.**
 - **Explain how Warfarin affects coagulation factors reducing the ability of blood to clot**
 - **Explain indication for anticoagulation**
 - **Advise on length of treatment**
 - **Advise the patient to take their Warfarin in the evening before their evening meal**
 - **Explain different colours and strengths of tablets and how to make up dose with examples**
 - **Contact dispensing pharmacy if colour of Warfarin tablets is different from usual**
- **Encourage the patient to carry their Oral Anticoagulant Therapy Record Book and the Anticoagulant Alert Card at all times.**
- **Ensure contact details for emergencies and routine monitoring are documented in pack.**
- **Record any care issues in the patient's care plan and agree desired outcomes and actions.**

Interactions & precautions

Is the patient aware they should inform the team responsible for their Warfarin care of any newly prescribed medicines to ensure any interactions are managed appropriately?

Yes No

Does the patient know that certain OTC medicines (e.g. ibuprofen or miconazole gel) and foods / alcohol can interact with Warfarin?

Yes No

Many medicines can interact with Warfarin, if any new interacting medicines are commenced, titrated or discontinued during Warfarin therapy an INR should be requested and acted upon appropriately.

There are also a number of OTC products such as Daktarin oral Gel and NSAIDs that should be avoided during Warfarin therapy.

Actions:

- **Advise the patient to always check with their GP and / or pharmacist that any new medicines, including herbal and OTC medicines, are safe to take with Warfarin.**
- **It is good practice to register the patient for the Minor Ailment Service to allow interaction check.**
- **Consult with GP if prescribed medication is contra-indicated or high risk of interactions and take appropriate action immediately. Some interactions with Warfarin can affect INR with 48 hours so timely intervention and monitoring are crucial.**
- **Record any care issues in the patient's care plan and agree desired outcomes and actions.**
- **Explain the importance of a balanced diet and the effect major changes on diet can have on anticoagulant therapy.**
- **Inform patient of food and drinks that can affect INR**
- **Explain interaction between Warfarin and alcohol and that excessive regular consumption and / or binge drinking can be dangerous.**

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Adverse reactions: side effects and toxicity

- Is the patient aware of the common side effects of Warfarin? Yes No
- Is the patient aware of the signs of over / under anticoagulation? Yes No
- Is the patient aware what might cause over-anticoagulation and how to avoid this happening? Yes No
- Is the patient aware of what to do if they are suffering from these signs? Yes No
- Is the patient aware to whom adverse reactions should be reported? Yes No

The most serious side effect of Warfarin is bleeding

Actions:

- **Check the patient's understanding of the side effects of Warfarin using the Warfarin information booklet as a prompt.**
 - **Refer a patient with any bleeding or bruising to their GP, anticoagulant clinic or directly to A&E.**
 - **Record any care issues in the patient's care plan and agree desired outcomes and actions.**
 - **Ensure patient is aware of signs of under anticoagulation e.g. pleuritic chest pain, calf tenderness.**
- Serious side effects include, but are not limited to:
- **Prolonged nose bleeds, more than 10 minutes**
 - **Blood in vomit**
 - **Blood in urine or faeces**
 - **Blood in sputum**
 - **Passing black faeces**
 - **Severe or spontaneous bruising**
 - **Unusual headaches**
 - **Heavy or increased menstrual bleeding or any other vaginal bleeding**

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Monitoring

- Has the patient had a recent blood test to check their INR? Yes No

Warfarin has a narrow therapeutic index. Each time you dispense a prescription for Warfarin you should check that the patient's INR is being monitored regularly.

Actions:

- **Explain what INR is and the patient's target range.**
- **Explain importance of monitoring and keeping appointments.**
- **Explain need to bring record book to appointments / pharmacy.**
- **Establish if patient has had recent INR checked.**
- **If they have not had their blood levels monitored recently:**
 - **Contact prescriber to request monitoring and advice.**
 - **Supply their prescription for Warfarin.**
 - **Record this as a care issue in the patient's care plan and agree desired outcome and actions with patient and GP.**

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Warfarin high risk medicine care risk assessment summary

Concordance

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Does the patient have the patient information and recording booklets and alert card and do they use them?	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Adverse reactions: side effects and toxicity

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Monitoring

Has the patient had a recent blood test to check their INR?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Use to add care issues for the specific question.

Key messages:

- Always check for interacting medicines and manage accordingly i.e. more frequent INR monitoring and adjustment of dose of Warfarin if appropriate
- Check if the patient has been educated on Warfarin
- Check if the patient has Oral Anticoagulant Therapy Pack
- Check if the patient has a recent INR result

Actions:

- Any pharmaceutical care issues, desired outcomes and actions to resolve the issues should be agreed with patient and recorded in their care plan.
- At each future dispensing:
 - Check for monitoring and signs of toxicity
 - Review and update any outstanding care issues in the care plan if appropriate

Care issues associated with this assessment

Care issue	Earliest review by	Last modified on
No records to display.		

[Add](#)

Assessment completion

Assessment complete
Assessment completed by
Assessment completed on
<input type="button" value="Complete assessment"/>