PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY BULLETIN

Anticoagulation education is required for all patients on therapeutically dosed warfarin, heparin or enoxaparin (Lovenox).

Education should start as soon as the medication order is initiated.

Rationale/Background

- Anticoagulants are high risk medications that may cause serious harm due to the complexity of dosing, the need for close monitoring and inconsistent patient compliance.
- The risks are so significant that there is a National Patient Safety Goal to reduce the likelihood of patient harm associated with anticoagulation.
- Patient education is the key to better patient outcomes.
- Effective patient education includes face-to-face interaction with patients and families to be sure they understand:
  - Risks and benefits of therapy
  - Precautions
  - Compliance and monitoring
  - Dietary guidelines
  - Potential for adverse reactions and interactions with other prescription, OTC and herbal products.

Resources

Patient education material:
NEW: Link to print anticoagulation pt education material in the OPC Anticoagulation section

Warfarin:
  - [EDOCs](#)
    - Coumadin/Warfarin Education in English
    - Coumadin/Warfarin Education in Spanish
    - Vitamin K Content of Selected Foods

Heparin
Lexicomp patient education materials in [EDOCs](#)
- Heparin Education in English

Enoxaparin
Mosby patient education materials in [EDOCs](#)
- Lovenox/Enoxaparin Education in English
- Lovenox/Enoxaparin Education in Spanish
- Lovenox Reimbursement Services & Patient Assistance form

Use [Lexicomp](#) found on the HEO web resource page to print a handout in other languages

Learning Exchange module (LMS): Anticoagulation Patient Education
Pharmacy: Limited support for Coumadin patient anticoagulation counseling during the hours of 8-4, M-F
Anticoagulation Medication Education - 3 Tools to Help

1. Anticoagulation Indicator on Inpatient Whiteboard to alert staff of Coumadin or Lovenox order and status of education by nursing or pharmacy

   ![AnticoagEd Indicator](Image)
   - Red= Needs Anticoag Medication Education
   - Green= Anticoag Education Documented either by RN in HED or PEER or by Pharmacist in Starpanel

2. Drug name added to Anticoagulation Education Section in HED

   ![Drug name added to anticoagulation education section](Image)
3. Anticoagulation section added to OPC to display all Anticoagulation related information and link to print patient education material.

Anticoagulation Medication Education:
Materials to Print for Patient Education

Step 1. Click the desired medication to display the material.

*Note there is no longer a Lovenox Enoxaparin Kit*

- **Coumadin/ Warfarin Education in English**
- **Coumadin/Warfarin Education in Spanish**
- **Vitamin K Content of Selected Foods**
- **Lovenox/Enoxaparin Education in English**
- **Lovenox/Enoxaparin Education in Spanish**
- **Lovenox Reimbursement Services & Patient Assistance form**
- **Heparin Education in English**

Step 2. The information will open in another window. Click the printer icon and the material will print on the closest printer.