

Surrey & North West Sussex Area Prescribing Committee

Surrey (East Surrey CCG, Guildford & Waverley CCG, North West Surrey CCG, Surrey Downs CCG & Surrey Heath CCG), Crawley CCG and Horsham & Mid-Sussex CCG

Oral anticoagulant therapy counselling checklist for apixaban, dabigatran, edoxaban or rivaroxaban

The following should be discussed with all patients started on oral anticoagulation and should be documented in the patient record.

Counselling checklist for joint decision making with patient	√
Explain purpose. What is anticoagulation and how does it work? What are the options? Refer to NICE Atrial fibrillation: anticoagulant options decision aid .	
Dose and frequency.	
Timing of doses. Ensure that rivaroxaban is taken with food.	
Expected duration of treatment.	
Importance of adherence and what to do if doses are missed – see patient information leaflet. Ways of remembering to take the tablets/capsules e.g. calendar	
Explain serious side effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleeding - Seek urgent medical attention if patient develops severe bleeding, e.g. blood in faeces, vomit or sputum, vaginal bleeding. • Discuss options for reversal if major bleeding. • Advise to seek urgent medical attention if they fall or injure themselves during treatment, especially if they hit their head, due to the increased risk of bleeding. • Unusual headaches. 	
Need to inform medical staff that they are taking DOAC if prescribed new medications or surgery /or if invasive procedures (including dental extractions) being planned. Bleeding risk if DOAC started immediately post op.	
Possible interactions with other drugs including herbal remedies - advise patient to read patient information leaflet and discuss with pharmacist or doctor before taking any over the counter remedies.	
Avoid aspirin or NSAIDs (unless clinically indicated)	
Advise patient to seek advice if planning to become pregnant or breastfeed	
Referral to Community Pharmacy New Medicines Service (NMS) – suitable for patients prescribed anticoagulants for the first time	
Monitoring and review: review of treatment and blood tests at least once a year but may be more frequent for some patients (see monitoring requirements)	
Alert card and patient information given. Consider viewing video with patient or recommending they watch it at home https://vimeo.com/206257430	