

# Memorandum

**To:** Medical Staff, Non-medical Prescribers, Pharmacy, Matrons, Ward Sisters

**CC:** Chris Evans – Chief Pharmacist, Rosalind Given Wilson- Medical Director,  
Jennie Hall - Chief Nurse, James Uprichard – Consultant Haematologist, Leonie Woodfinden –  
Lead Pharmacist Anticoagulation and Haemostasis

**From:** Medicines Information Centre

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2014

## Discharge process for patients on anticoagulants

### Warfarin

The warfarin discharge process is documented on the back of the pink anticoagulant supplementary chart and within the warfarin prescribing plan on iClip. This process is applicable to **ALL** patients taking warfarin at the point of discharge.

- Refer all patients to the anticoagulation clinic for dose forecasting
- Send the pink chart (if the patient has one) and the yellow book (if the patient has one) to the anticoagulation clinic, or make the referral electronically (ext 5443/5480 or fax 0839)
- Check the INR on the day of discharge
- If the patient lives within the St George's catchment area then the SGH anticoagulant clinic will arrange follow up
- If the patient does not live within the St George's catchment area, then ward staff are responsible for arranging referral to a local anticoagulation clinic. Advice will be given by the St George's anticoagulation nurses
- If district nurse testing is required, please inform the anticoagulation clinic
- Ensure the patient has been counselled according to Trust policy
- Weekend discharges should be planned for on Friday

### NOACs (rivaroxaban, dabigatran, apixaban)

The discharge process for NOACs is available on the Anticoagulation and Thrombosis homepage on the Trust intranet. This process is applicable to patients **initiated** on NOACs at St George's during their inpatient stay.

- Complete an 'Initiation of NOAC treatment' form and fax to the GP (confirm receipt)
- Refer the patient to the SGH thrombosis clinic for follow up
- Supply enough NOAC to cover until outpatient follow up (usually 1 month is sufficient)
- Ensure the patient has been counselled according to Trust policy
- Ensure the patient has been provided with the relevant drug information pack

**Discharge MUST NOT occur until these steps are complete.**

For advice and access to information packs out of hours contact the weekend or on-call pharmacist on bleep 6267.

If you have any queries regarding this memorandum, please contact Leonie Woodfinden on bleep 7117 or extension 3682 or [medinfo@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:medinfo@stgeorges.nhs.uk)