Did you know?

Venous Thromboembolism

What can you do?

Always ensure you follow up to date national guidance and best practice

You can help...

Please send us any experiences and solutions which would be useful for sharing with the NHS via safetyandlearningenquiries@nhsla.com

Please note that the NHS LA database was designed primarily as a claims management tool rather than for research purposes. It records a limited amount of information and a claim may be multi-factorial and/or settled on a number of bases. Therefore the figures provided should be treated with caution and should not be relied on as a basis for audit or research.

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Did you know?

Around half of all cases of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) are associated with hospitalisation, with many events occurring up to 90 days after admission. It affects approximately 1 in every 1000 of the UK population and is a significant cause of mortality, long term disability and chronic ill-health problems.

There were 625 VTE claims with incident dates between 11 April 2009 to 30 September 2014.

Of these claims were successful

- 24 occurred at the risk assessment stage
- 15 occurred at the intervention stage
- 39 occurred at the discharge stage
- 11 occurred at the diagnosis stage
- 37 occurred at other stages of care

This includes claimant and defence legal costs as well as damages paid.

Costing the NHS

£10,025,132

Venous Thromboembolism

Costs are not just financial

“Patient suffers from post thrombotic syndrome, which is a chronic and lifelong condition both physically and psychologically.”

“Staff failed to carry out any VTE assessment. Increased risk following surgery (obese, age, reduced mobility).”

“Surgery delayed by several days, no risk assessment (increased risk due to immobilisation), no prophylaxis prescribed or given... Post Mortem results: multiple PEs emanating from DVT in leg.”

Where is it happening?

54 Surgery (including general surgery, orthopaedics, vascular and urology)

4 Gynaecology

27 Medicine (including general medicine, cardiology, gastroenterology, geriatric and respiratory)

8 Obstetrics

25 Accident & Emergency

123 successful claims

£517,456 defence legal costs paid

£6,548,509 damages paid to claimant

£2,959,166 claimant legal costs paid

Breakdown of successful VTE claims costs (2009-2014*)

*Incident dates 1 April 2009 – 30 September 2014

Total successful VTE claims = 123 out of 625 cohort