
VTE AWARD – GENERAL

Excellent Quality Improvement programme that advanced practice in thrombosis prevention or management

ROYAL GLAMORGAN HOSPITAL

Pharmacy led Anticoagulation Service – Perioperative management of anticoagulants Royal Glamorgan Hospital Pharmacy Department (RGH)

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is the number one cause of potentially preventable death in hospitalised patients. It is well known that patients undergoing surgery have an increased risk of VTE. For patients who are already anticoagulated it is important that the anticoagulation is managed appropriately in the perioperative period. This involves making complex decisions, balancing the patient's underlying thrombotic risk against the bleeding risk of the patient, and the procedure.

The team identified differences in the pathways for managing anticoagulants during the perioperative period between the acute hospital sites within Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Hospital Board (CTMUHB).

A review was undertaken in line with new national recommendations and resulted in a referral pathway being introduced by the pharmacy anticoagulation team at the RGH.

The new pathway established a process for:

- Referral of complex patients on anticoagulation.
- Easy to follow plans for staff assessing non-complex patients' pre-admission.
- Complex cases reviewed by an anticoagulation specialist in collaboration with cardiology and haematology.
- Confirmation of appropriate counselling, prescribing and medication provision given for patients.

In the period November 2023–August 2024 reviews showed:

- 58 referrals were made to the team.
- 26% of existing management plans were changed to ensure they were clinically optimised.
- Pharmacy prescribed 21 prescriptions, freeing up anaesthetic and surgery workload.
- 10 patients attended hospital for face-to-face clinics and further counselling.
- 5 patients were switched to a direct oral anticoagulant.

During implementation, every effort was made to seamlessly embed the service into practice by providing guidance and supporting resources accessible on the health board intranet.

Clear benefits to patients, including:

- Receiving care from an appropriate specialist.
- Treatment clinically optimised
- Managed in the most appropriate place.
- Avoidance of unnecessary hospital visits if they can be managed remotely.
- A one-stop shop provision for counselling, medications and consumables for those needing a hospital appointment.

The work has been successfully implemented without any additional funding or provision of extra resources, the project has been accepted by the Dragon's Heart Institute, 'Spread and Scale Academy.'

