

VTE AWARD – PROPHYLAXIS AND PRESCRIBING

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

SPIRE HEALTHCARE

Spire Healthcare's National Quality Improvement Initiative to prevent VTE across 38 hospitals

Spire Healthcare is a leading independent healthcare group in the United Kingdom running 38 hospitals, over 50 clinics, medical centres and consulting rooms. In 2023, Spire Healthcare delivered care to over 1 million inpatients, outpatient and day-case patients along with occupational health to client base.

Annually, Spire Healthcare provides services for over 200,000 NHS patients with 25.1% of revenue coming from the services for the NHS in 2023.

In early 2023, a review was undertaken using the Systems Engineering Initiative for Patient Safety (SEIPS) to identify areas for improvement, reducing avoidable incidents.

The review identified 6 key factors which needed to align with the whole patient pathway

- VTE risk assessment – accuracy and consistency.
- Patient information.
- Fluid hydration.
- Early mobilisation for arthroplasty patients.
- Pharmacological prophylaxis.
- Mechanical prophylaxis.

In response, a National VTE Working Group was established incorporating, national clinical specialists, medical and hospital representation who met monthly to ensure traction of the QI project.

Extensive quality improvements were put into place to progress this project including:

- A training package, department specific VTE competencies developed by the VTE National Specialist for the VTE Hospital Leads to provide training and competency assessment needed for all clinical staff.
- Audits were streamlined on pharmacological prophylaxis and VTE risk assessment into one audit for robust data analysis.
- Introduction of a 'Patient Safety and Quality Review' (PSQR) to measure assurance and improvement across patient information, early mobilisation, education and training.

Spire VTE audit analysis shows an improvement across the board in 2024:

- VTE risk assessment 99.8%
- Patient information 98.6%
- Anti-coagulation 100%
- Pre-Operative 'sip-til- send' hydration 170ml/hr 93.8%

PSIRF VTE incidence data analysis showed quality improvements between July-December 2024 across:

- Early mobilisation with average length of stay reduced by 10% in arthroplasty incidences.
- Mobilisation targets improved from 41% - 75%.
- Compliance with anticoagulation improved from 80% - 100%.
- Compliance regarding hydration (pre-operatively, 'Sip - 'til -send') improving from 68% - 82%.
- Correct completion of VTE risk assessment improved from 80% - 99% inpatient admissions.
- Unavoidable VTE incidences improved from 48% - 70%.
- The sharing of patient information being standardised across all centres with the choice of literature being Thrombosis UK and the 'Let's Talk Clots' app.

As a result, all aspects of the patient pathway have been mapped out to support VTE prevention and that patients entering their care can be assured that their VTE risk and management satisfies the guidelines set by the UK VTE Exemplar standards.

Spire is now working towards the risk and management strategies to meet with the guidelines set out by the VTE Exemplar network and are working towards VTE Exemplar status across all 38 Spire Healthcare hospitals.

