

Prescribing Warfarin in the Outpatient Dialysis Unit

DESIGNATED PRESCRIBERS for routine prescriptions		
1 st contact		2 nd contact (only if 1 st contact unavailable)
Dr Michaela Petrie	Dr Paddy Gibson	Renal Registrar on-call via RIE switchboard

- INRs should only be checked on a Monday or Tuesday unless there are clinical concerns (*eg: unusual bleeding at fistula site, prolonged nose bleeds, unusual extensive bruises, malaena etc*) or when instructed by a prescriber
- Prescriptions should be completed and communicated to patients according to the following timings:

HD Day	Session	INR reporting to prescriber	Time to contact patient
Monday	Morning	Monday morning	Monday morning/afternoon
	Afternoon	Tuesday morning	Tuesday morning/afternoon
	Twilight	Tuesday morning	Tuesday morning/afternoon
Tuesday	Morning	Tuesday morning	Tuesday morning/afternoon
	Afternoon	Wednesday morning	Wednesday morning/afternoon
	Twilight	Wednesday morning	Wednesday morning/afternoon

- The Yellow Warfarin book **MUST** be made available to the prescriber completing the prescriptions - understanding the patient's anticoagulation history is key to safe prescribing
- All enquiries to Renal Registrar on-call during the out-of-hours period or in the weekend **MUST** be done via the Nurse In-charge of the Dialysis Unit at the time. The on-call registrar should **NOT** be routinely contacted for warfarin prescriptions except in unsafe situations as below:
 - INR >4
 - Active bleeding
 - For subtherapeutic INRs, please follow steps above except in the following situations where the prescriber should be contacted:
 - Patients with a metallic heart valve when INR is <2.0
 - Patients with lupus anticoagulant when INR is <1.5
 - Patients with venous thromboembolism (PE/DVT) when INR is <1.5
- Patients with stable INRs will require less frequent monitoring. They should continue their usual warfarin dose unless it is unsafe (as described above)
- Unnecessary INR monitoring and frequent dose changes will lead to erratic anticoagulation which may be harmful to the patient

