

Prescribing Warfarin in the Outpatient Dialysis Unit

DESIGNATED PRESCRIBERS for routine prescriptions		
1 st contact	2 nd contact	3 rd contact (out-of-hours or if 1 st and 2 nd contacts unavailable)
M/W/F patients Dr Caroline Whitworth <i>Please email unless urgent</i>	Dr Sundeep Miya Bleep 5221 at RIE	Renal Registrar on-call via RIE switchboard
T/T/S patients Dr Heather Kerr <i>Please email unless urgent</i> Preferred email heather.kerr@nhs.net		

- INRs should only be checked **WEEKLY** 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
- Understanding the patient's anticoagulation history is key to safe prescribing. Consistency in prescribing is essential and is best achieved by maintaining the same prescriber for all occasions as much as possible
- If INR remains within target range please contact prescriber on the next working day. The patient should continue with his/her usual warfarin dose until further prescription advice is obtained
- 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 in the following situations, the prescriber should be contacted for advice:
 - 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)
- Frequency of INR monitoring should be specified by the prescriber

- Unnecessary INR monitoring and frequent dose changes will lead to erratic anticoagulation which may be harmful to the patient