

WARFARIN EDUCATION FOR HOSPITAL IN THE HOME PATIENTS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



If you have any English language difficulties, please ask staff to book an interpreter. From home contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 9605 3056. Services are provided free of charge. Ask staff if this information is available in your preferred language.

What is warfarin education?

Warfarin is a medication that requires careful monitoring and a good understanding of side-effects. Hospital in the Home (HITH) patients may have received warfarin education prior to discharge from hospital, from their doctor or pharmacist. As well, you should have received a Warfarin Booklet which has written information and room to write down your INR results and an Alert Card to put in your wallet.

Please let your Hospital in the Home nurse know if you have not received this.

How can Hospital in the Home help?

Hospital in the Home or Hospital in the Home Pharmacy can answer any questions that you have about your treatment.

As well as warfarin, you may be currently receiving injections (known as low molecular weight heparin or enoxaparin or Clexane™) daily or twice daily to thin the blood. Hospital in the Home will look after you until the warfarin levels (called "INR") have reached their target and injections are no longer required.

Hospital in the Home will show you how to help monitor your INR. Your target INR and all your INR results will be written down in your warfarin booklet to show your local doctor or pathology service when discharged from Hospital in the Home.

Hospital in the Home will regularly check your INR and advise you on the correct dose of warfarin to take every day.

If you are concerned that you need medical advice while you are with Hospital in the Home, call our Clinical Coordinator on **9871 3179**. We are available 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

Please inform us **immediately** if you notice any signs that may suggest major bleeding:

- If you have bleeding from the nose, gums, or a cut that does not stop within 10 minutes with pressure applied
- If you cough up or vomit red or coffee coloured fluid
- If you have bowel movements that are red or look like tar
- If you have unexplained bruising
- If you have a bad fall or hit your head, even if you are not bleeding
- If you develop unusual pain (e.g. back or abdominal pain) or severe headache with nausea

What happens when I am discharged from Hospital in the Home? Once discharged from Hospital in the Home, your local doctor / pathology service will take over monitoring your INRs and advising you on your dose of warfarin.

You will be advised by Hospital in Home on our last visit when to have your INR next checked and when to make an appointment with your local doctor. Hospital in the Home will send a discharge summary to your local doctor (and pathology service if you have one already). You will also need to take your INR book to your next appointments with them.

If you have any further questions, please speak to your Hospital in the Home nurse or contact Hospital in the Home Pharmacist, based at Maroondah Hospital Pharmacy, on 9871-3524.

Consumer Consultation



Protecting Your Privacy

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