

Campaign Toolkit

Glossary

ACCSMA (AntiCoagulation Self-monitoring Alliance)

ACCSMA comprises four of the UK's leading charities and patient groups – AntiCoagulation Europe; the Children's Heart Federation; AF Association; Mechanical Heart Valve Support Group – that exist to provide advice, support and guidance to people on oral anticoagulation therapy, as well as their families and healthcare professionals. Healthcare company Roche is also part of the alliance.

Atrial Fibrillation

Atrial fibrillation is a heart condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate.

Anticoagulant

A medicine such as warfarin is given to stop blood clots forming.

Anticoagulation clinics

An Anticoagulation Clinic is a service established to monitor and manage the medication(s) that you take to prevent blood clots. Physically, it is a specified location within a hospital or a medical office that is staffed by pharmacists.

CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups)

CCGs are clinically-led groups that include all of the GP and primary care practices in their geographical area. CCGs have the power to make decisions about which healthcare and other services should be commissioned for their patients.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)

DVT is the formation of a blood clot (thrombus) in a deep vein, predominantly in the legs.

Haematologist

A physician who specialises in the treatment of blood diseases and disorders.

Heparin

An anticoagulant drug given directly into a vein which thins the blood when there is a danger of clotting.

INR (International Normalised Ratio)

International Normalised Ratio is the ratio between the coagulation time of a sample of blood and the normal coagulation time, when coagulation takes place in certain standardized conditions.

INR Tester

A portable device which measures a person's INR by analysing a drop of blood that has been applied to test strip inserted in to it.

ISI (International Sensitivity Index)

The International Sensitivity Index refers to a laboratory standard for thromboplastins, the reagents used to determine the prothrombin time (the clotting time of blood).

NOACs (Newer Oral Anticoagulants)

Oral anticoagulant medications, which are designed to be given in fixed doses, without the need for coagulation monitoring.

OAT (Oral Anticoagulation Therapy)

Oral anticoagulation therapy refers to medicines prescribed to prevent the formation of clots in blood vessels and the chambers of the heart.

PROMs (Patient Reported Outcomes Measures)

PROMs measure a patient's health status or health-related quality of life at a single point in time, and are collected through short, self-completed questionnaires.

POC (Point of Care)

As test devices become more compact and easier to use, as well as more accurate, tests can be more frequently performed at the point of care, whether that is the emergency department, intensive care unit or a patient's home.

Self-test

A patient who self-tests tests their INR themselves at home using an INR tester, but then contacts their healthcare professional to adjust the warfarin dose.

Self-monitor

Another term for self-test.

Self-manage

A patient who self-manages tests their INR themselves and then adjusts their own warfarin dosage (within the limits set by their healthcare professionals).

Test strips

Testing strips needed to be inserted in to an INR tester for INR testing.

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Therapeutic Range (TTR)

The range of concentrations at which a drug or other therapeutic agent is effective with minimal toxicity.

Warfarin

Warfarin is an anticoagulant normally used in the prevention of thrombosis and thromboembolism, the formation of blood clots in the blood vessels and their migration elsewhere in the body respectively.