

Patient Care Policy & Procedure Manual

POINT OF CARE INR MANAGEMENT

POLICY

The Family Health Team is committed to ensuring that all patients requiring anticoagulation therapy are managed in a timely, cost effective, and therapeutically appropriate manner that is accessible and acceptable to both patients and physicians.

Target therapeutic ranges are established using best practice guidelines.

Only Nurse Clinicians and Lab Technicians trained in the use of the Point of Care INR testing device are authorized to administer these tests.

The Clinical Pharmacist interprets and adjusts warfarin dosages as per medical directive.

PROCEDURE

1. Patient presents to the clinic as per scheduled time.
2. Lab Technician administers Point of Care test, records results on communication tool and passes tool to appointed Nurse Clinician.
3. If INR is between 2.2-2.8 for target therapeutic range of 2-3 or 2.7-3.3 for target therapeutic range of 2.5-3.5, the Nurse Clinician completes a brief history of client status, medication changes and adherence to treatment since last test date. The Nurse Clinician provides the patient with a card showing the date of the next INR measurement and documents in the EMR.
4. If INR is outside the parameters, the Nurse Clinician forwards the patient to the Clinical Pharmacist.
5. The Clinical Pharmacist assesses the patient and adjusts the warfarin dosage as per the approved treatment algorithm.
6. If a new prescription is needed, the Clinical Pharmacist generates the script for the responsible physician to sign and gives it to the patient. The Clinical Pharmacist documents in the EMR.
7. The Clinical Pharmacist provides the patient with a card showing the time for the next INR measurement.
8. The Clinical Pharmacist reviews INR report log at end of clinic and reports to physician as necessary.

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RISK

Malfunction in Point of Care testing machine
Loss of INR control
Professional liability for patient safety
Inadequate staffing of INR clinic
Loss of ability to bill for Point of Care test strips

RESPONSIBILITIES/ACCOUNTABILITIES

This service is managed by the Clinical Pharmacist as per the established medical directives.

It is the responsibility of the Clinical Pharmacist to provide care as established by best practice guidelines and maintain appropriate documentation and consultation with physicians.

Nurse Clinicians and Lab Technicians provide Point of Care INR testing and patient consultation and education as appropriate.

Competencies of all staff providing services in the INR clinic are regularly reviewed and documented.

LIMITS

This is a new policy and procedure that is available to all patients who meet the criteria and whose physician is a willing participant. It is not a mandatory policy and physicians may opt out of providing this service to their patients.

Nursing home patients will not be bound by this policy but may be included at a later date if feasible.

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