

WARFARIN DOSING MEDICAL DIRECTIVE

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PRIMARY GOALS

The primary goals of the Medical Directive for Warfarin Dosing are

1. To provide consistent management of warfarin.
2. To increase clinic efficiency

DESCRIPTION OF ENHANCEMENT

The Medical Directive for Warfarin Dosing is comprised of two documents that are to be used by the practice physicians and nurses. The health professionals receive the patient's INR and adjust the warfarin dose using the algorithm agreed upon by the practice site. These documents are electronic files but have not yet been incorporated into the practice EMR. The warfarin patient flowsheets are currently kept in a binder at the nursing station.

1. Warfarin Dosing Medical Directive and Algorithm: This is a two-page document that explicitly states the procedure to be followed by nurses and physicians in the practice; the Warfarin Dosing Algorithm to be followed; and the instances in which the management of the warfarin dosing is to change from nurses to practice site physicians.
2. Warfarin Patient Flowsheet: This is a two-page tool that is used to document and monitor a patient's INR readings and the dosage of warfarin being taken over time.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

1. Nurses may require training and additional support when the Medical Directive for Warfarin Dosing is first implemented in the practice site.
2. Other allied health professionals who may be involved in the management of warfarin dosing, such as pharmacists, may also require training and additional support.

POTENTIAL FACILITATORS

1. The presence of a motivated team of physicians and nurses in the practice site.
2. The availability of health professional with expert knowledge with whom to discuss complicated cases. For example, a pharmacist who specializes in thrombosis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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