

ANTICOAGULANT PT/INR MONITORING

Policy and Procedure

Policy:

It is the policy of this facility that residents on anticoagulation therapy will be monitored to ensure the maintenance of recommended laboratory parameters as established by the attending physician. The protocol for managing anticoagulant therapy will assist in reducing the risk of negative effects from the use of anticoagulation medications.

Procedure:

1. Residents receiving anticoagulation therapy may require regular monitoring and will have anticoagulation PT/INR tracking information documented per facility policy.
2. To initiate anticoagulation PT/INR tracking, review the resident's medical record to ensure anticoagulation therapy orders include a supporting diagnosis, appropriate dosage, desired INR range, and the parameters for physician notification of abnormal laboratory results.
3. The Medication Administration Record or PT/INR tracking tool should reflect the:
 - a. Date of the most recent laboratory draw
 - b. The results of the most recent laboratory draw
 - c. Current medication and dose orders
 - d. Date of the next scheduled laboratory draw
 - e. Parameters for abnormal results and physician notification
4. With each medication administration opportunity, the nurse or med tech will review the Medication Administration Record or PT/INR tracking log to ensure consistency in medication dose orders, laboratory results are documented, the physician has been notified of laboratory results, and the next laboratory draw date is identified prior to administering the medication.

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This policy and procedure is not intended to replace the informed judgment of individual physicians, nurses or other clinicians nor is it intended as a statement of prevailing community standards or minimum standards of practice. It is a suggested method and technique for achieving optimal health care, not a minimum standard below which residents necessarily would be placed at risk.

5. DO NOT ADMINISTER THE MEDICATION IF LABORATORY RESULTS ARE NOT CLEARLY IDENTIFIED OR ON THE DATE LABORATORY WORK IS TO BE DONE. ALWAYS HAVE RESULTS OF THE MOST CURRENT LABORATORY TESTS PRIOR TO ADMINISTERING ANTICOAGULANTS

6. Licensed staff receiving laboratory results shall be required to update the MAR, notify the physician of results, and adjust dosage orders as necessary.

7. Tracking of PT/INR values will be maintained until the drug regime has been discontinued by physician orders.

8. Changes in dosage require the entire medication order be discontinued and a new order be written. Highlight the discontinued order on the MAR, indicate the date of discontinuation and write ensure the new orders are noted in a separate space to prevent confusion.

9. All anticoagulation therapy requires close monitoring, and it is critical that the resident is continuously assessed for adverse drug reactions (ADR) such as bruising, bleeding gums, rectal bleeding (melena), bloody urine (hematuria), change in mental status, etc. All adverse reactions must be reported to the attending physician immediately and documented in the medical record.

Administrator Signature: _____ Date: _____

Medical Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Review Dates: _____