Discharging patients on WARFARIN

King’s anticoagulation clinic ext 3333 9am-4pm Mon-Fri

All patients discharged on warfarin must be referred to an anticoagulation clinic for continued INR monitoring and dosing-see procedure for referral opposite.

All patients will need an INR test on the day of discharge (unless previously agreed with anticoagulation clinic)

All patients will need to be counselled before discharge. Ensure that the patient at least understands the following:

- That warfarin comes in 3 different colours/strengths
- What dose to take (in number of tablets and colours if necessary) and that the dose will be written in their yellow anticoagulation book
- The date of their next INR test
- Procedure for their next INR test (they will need to bring their yellow book with them to have a blood test at the Golden Jubilee Wing 1 hour before the appointment time in the yellow book, and then proceed to haematology out patients for their appointment)
- Ideally the ward pharmacist will have counselled the patient fully prior to discharge, however they will receive full counselling on their first visit to clinic.
Existing King’s anticoagulation patients/new patients who live in the King’s area (if unsure check with the anticoagulation clinic)

- Phone ext 3333 (anticoagulation clinic) to inform them of impending discharge
- Fill out front of anticoagulation chart with all the patient’s details
  - Current address and telephone number
  - Any compliance/communication/social/mobility issues
  - Concurrent medications
  - If on aspirin/clopidogrel/dipyridamole—is it to stop when INR in range?
- Discharging doctor must sign front of chart
- Take anticoagulation chart (and yellow anticoagulation book if existing patient) to anticoagulation clinic (4th floor Hambledon wing. Take lift by psychological medicine corridor opposite Matthew Whiting ward)
- The clinic will dose the patient for discharge and arrange their next INR test

Existing out of area patients/new patients who do not live in the King’s area

- For existing patients—find out where they are usually managed and refer them back with full details of in patient stay and warfarin doses
- For new patients—refer patient to nearest anticoagulation clinic (phone ext 3333 if unsure which clinic to refer to)
- Dose patient for discharge based on INR from day of discharge and ensure they will be seen for their next INR test within 4 days if possible (or within a safe time period depending on the patient)
- Blank yellow books can be obtained from the anticoagulation clinic

Out of hours/weekend discharges

- If patient is a new/existing King’s anticoagulation patient leave a message on the anticoagulation clinic answer phone ext 3333 with details of patient’s name, telephone number, dose for discharge and when they need the next INR check
- Bring fully completed anticoagulation chart to the anticoagulation clinic when next open or fax copy of the chart to ext 4689
- If out of area patient refer to relevant clinic when next open
- **NB. Out of hours: If INR is out of range for indication on the day of discharge please seek dosing and follow up advice from the haematology reg on bleep 266 if needed**