



Anticoagulation Trigger Summary

There are 3 triggers related to anticoagulation therapy.

1. Patients receiving heparin with a PTT > 130 (or 40 seconds above the high end of normal range)
2. Patients who have received warfarin in the hospital with an INR > 5
3. Patients who have received warfarin in the hospital who are administered Vitamin K (oral or IV)

Exclusions:

- Mental health admissions
- OB admissions
- Age < 18 yrs
- LOS < 48 hrs
- Patients who receive Vitamin K to reverse the effects of warfarin for a procedure only
- Patients who are admitted with an INR > 5

Severity Ranking

- Chart review will identify signs and symptoms necessary to define the severity of the event. Severity will be determined by the severity ranking guideline. For events with multiple symptoms, the highest severity will be the final severity.
- Adverse event should be identified regardless of temporal relationship – example: If the patient has received heparin and 5 days later exhibits hematuria, this is counted as an adverse event.

Number of episodes

- Warfarin:
 - If a patient has multiple elevated INRs related to one episode, it counts as one episode. This is due to the extended half-life of warfarin.
 - If the patient has an elevated INR due to hospital dosing which returns to normal and then experiences another episode of elevated INR due to hospital dosing, these count as two episodes.
- Heparin:
 - Due to the short half-life of heparin (90 minutes), if a patient experiences an elevated PTT that does not resolve within 6 hrs, additional elevated PTTs will count as separate occurrences.

Data

- Baseline data from the 4th quarter of FY2005 (April, May, and June 2005) will be compiled.
- A common data collection form and Access database for anticoagulation is nearly complete.
- The number submitted to the OhioHealth scorecard is the absolute number of events.
- The information submitted to the central Ohio Patient Safety database is an Excel database.
- An episode identified through chart review that is not identified through the “trigger method” is not counted. Issues of why they are not identified through the method described above should be investigated and corrected.

