The Ottawa Hospital | L'Hôpital d'Ottawa

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Safe withdrawal of warfarin prior to elective surgery

SECTION: Pre-Admission Unit

NO. / N˚ : ADM ___ ___

ISSUED BY:

DATE ISSUED: yy/mm/dd

APPROVED BY:

DATE REVIEWED: yy/mm/dd

DATE REVISED: yy/mm/dd

1. POLICY

Patients undergoing most elective surgery must discontinue warfarin (Coumadin ®) preoperatively.

2. DEFINITION: N/A

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Patients taking warfarin must be evaluated in the Pre-Admission Unit a minimum of 10 days pre-operatively.

3.2 Patients undergoing ophthalmologic surgery may remain on warfarin for their procedure.

3.3 All other patients should discontinue warfarin 5 days preoperatively

3.4 Patients at low risk of thromboembolism do not require additional thromboprophylaxis during warfarin withdrawal.

3.5 Patients at high risk of thromboemebolism may require supplemental anticoagulation during coumadin withdrawal. Such patients include those with:

- 3.5.1 Venous thromboembolism less than 3 months ago
- 3.5.2 Recurrent venous thromboembolism
- 3.5.3 Arterial thromboembolism less than 3 months ago
- 3.5.4 Mechanical prosthetic heart valves
- 3.5.5 Tissue prosthetic heart valves with a history of embolism
- 3.5.6 Hypercoagulable states (lupus anticoagulant, Protein C & S deficiency, malignancy)
- 3.5.7 Atrial fibrillation with a history of embolism

3.6 Patients at high risk of thromboembolism should be referred to the Thrombosis Clinic for assessment and possible therapy with low molecular weight heparin.

3.7 Consultations with the Thrombosis Clinic are scheduled by phoning 17622 to book the appointment and then faxing the consultation request to 14781. Every effort should be made to provide the Thrombosis Clinic with 7 days advance notice for consultations. The Thrombosis Clinic operates full day clinics at the Civic Campus Monday-Thursday. Half-day clinics are run at the Civic Campus Friday morning and at the General Campus Monday and Wednesday mornings.

3.8 A PTT and INR should be ordered STAT on the morning of surgery for all patients stopping their warfarin preoperatively.

4. RELATED POLICIES AND / OR LEGISLATION: N/A