

Number 17 –
January 2015

Patient Safety ALERT: URGENT CHANGE TO PRESCRIBING ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS

(ACUTE INPATIENT WARDS AND NORTHERN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS ONLY)

ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS (Warfarin and Phenindione)

Is the patient on heparin?

Medicine	Date																		
Indication	INR																		
Target INR	Dose (mg)																		
Print name + GMC number	Presc Initial																		
PH. Sig	Given by																		
Pre-admission dose	Time																		



Following a number of patient safety incidents and near misses, the following change to prescribing oral anticoagulants comes into effect immediately. The oral anticoagulant section is found on page three of the Inpatient Prescription Sheet.

Prescribers should use an 'X' on the oral anticoagulant prescribing section of the Inpatient Prescription Sheet when a dose is to be omitted.

The administration codes included in the Inpatient Prescription Sheet MUST NOT be used on this section.

FOR ACTION:

All prescribers must be aware of this new requirement. If staff administering medications are unsure or feel that the prescription for an anticoagulant is unclear, they must refer back to the original prescriber where possible.

For more information, please contact sarahjames2@nhs.net