

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: NSHA, St. Anne's Community Centre and IWK Physicians, Health Service Managers, Nurse Educators

From: Program of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Date: August 17, 2020

Message: Implementation of Nova Scotia Guideline for the Management of Patients on Vitamin K Antagonists or Direct Oral Anticoagulants Utilizing Prothrombin Complex Concentrates (Version 4)

Effective 2020-09-15, Version 4 of the **Nova Scotia Guideline for the Management of Patients on Vitamin K Antagonists or Direct Oral Anticoagulants Utilizing Prothrombin Complex Concentrates** will be implemented.

Summary of key changes include:

- The management of bleeding patients on direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) apixaban (Eliquis®), dabigatran (Pradaxa®), edoxaban (Lixiana®) and rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) have been included in the guideline
 - Use of PCC for patients taking DOACs are considered reasonable options only if the patient is experiencing a life-threatening bleed or emergency surgery is required. An outline of specific emergency surgeries and conditions considered as life-threatening bleeding have been added to the guideline.
 - For patients taking apixaban, edoxaban or rivaroxaban, an 80 mL (2000 IU) fixed dose of PCC may be administered.
 - For patients taking dabigatran the specific reversal agent Idarucizumab (Praxbind) is to be administered and not PCC.
 - The effects that DOAC's have on laboratory coagulation testing i.e. PT/INR, APTT, thrombin time and anti-Xa assays have been added to the guideline.
- A pediatric PCC dosing protocol has been incorporated into the recommendations for the use of PCC for the reversal of vitamin K antagonists.
- The addition of a combined total maximum dose of PCC not exceeding 120 mL (3000IU) has been added to the recommended dosing.
- Provincial PCC preprinted order sets for adult (NS_OSPPCA) and pediatric patients (NS_OSPPCP) have been developed to coincide with the guideline.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer LeFrense (Manager, Nova Scotia Provincial Blood Coordinating Team) at (902) 487-0504 or jennifer.lefrense@nshealth.ca.