

To GP Practices for cascade to
General Practitioners
Practice Non-Medical Prescribers
Practice Warfarin Clinic Staff
Community Pharmacists

20th February 2014

Dear Colleague

**Re: Guidance on the Safe Use of Warfarin in Primary Care –
Updated January 2014**

Please find enclosed updated guidance on the safe use of warfarin in primary care.

The following key topics are covered:

- Warfarin monitoring services
- Patient management
- Factors affecting the INR
- Clinical guidelines for initiation & reversal

The update incorporates revised recommendations for the reversal of warfarin where there is a high INR and the inclusion of an additional slow loading initiation regimen for patients with atrial fibrillation.

It is anticipated that the guideline will provide useful information for healthcare staff involved in:

- Developing protocols for the management of patients taking warfarin
- Developing protocols for dispensing warfarin
- Reviewing practice governance plans
- NI LES Anticoagulant Monitoring
- Locally commissioned services for initiation of warfarin in primary care

We hope that you will find this resource useful. Further details can be found on the Primary Care Intranet site or the HSCB internet site:

http://primarycare.hscni.net/PharmMM_Resources_Clinical%20Resources_Anticoagulants.htm

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/medicinesmanagement/PrescribingGuidance/index.html> - P-1_0

Please contact your Medicines Management Advisor if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Brogan

Head of Pharmacy & Medicines Management