Coumadin Clinic:

Better management of a necessary evil
Changing Systems Curriculum

Goals

1. Learn how to better manage initiation and maintenance of coumadin therapy
2. Learn how a practice-based system can provide an organized approach to care

Objectives

1. Coumadin
   a. Describe the pharmacokinetics of coumadin
   b. Describe indications for coumadin therapy, and the recommended target INR for common conditions
   c. Recognize common drug interactions with coumadin
   d. Find and use the coumadin management tools in Essential Evidence
   e. Demonstrate management of patients on coumadin
      a. Appropriate monitoring interval
      b. Dose adjustment
      c. Management of elevated INR
2. Coumadin clinic
   a. Describe the process of care in the coumadin clinic, and how this differs from the process for other conditions requiring monitoring, eg, diabetes.
   b. Describe the roles of the nurse and the physician in the coumadin clinic
   c. Learn how to use the Anticoagulation Management Tool in EPIC
   d. Identify advantages and disadvantages of this process of care.

Readings

1. The pharmacology and management of Vitamin K antagonists: The seventh ACCP conference on antithrombotic and thrombolytic therapy
2. Prevalence and predictors of potential drug-drug interactions in Regione Emilia-Romagna, Italy.
3. Care of patients receiving long-term anticoagulation

Essential Evidence Tools:

1. Warfarin dose adjustment
2. Warfarin dosing in outpatients
3. Warfarin dose (elderly)
4. Bleeding risk on warfarin
5. Warfarin initial dose (10 mg protocol)
Assignments

1. Complete the readings.
2. Find the Essential Evidence Tools (these are clinical decision rules)
   a. Review the “More Info” tab
   b. Play with the tools
3. Spend a half-day in Coumadin clinic
   a. Review the information for each patient (therapeutic range, current coumadin dose, current INR).
   b. Make a recommendation to the attending about:
      i. Monitoring interval
      ii. Change in dose, if any – use the Essential Evidence Tools as a guide.
   c. Learn how to use the Anticoagulation Management tool in EPIC