

Recent reports of incidents involving Direct Acting Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)

April 2018



In response to a number of significant incidents involving the prescribing, dispensing and administration of DOACS, prescribers, community pharmacists and carers are reminded of the following:

Apixaban (Eliquis[®]), Dabigatran (Pradaxa[®]), Edoxaban (Lixiana[®]) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto[®]) are Direct Acting Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) – These are ‘warfarin like’ drugs.

	Available as 2.5mg, 5mg	
	Available as 75mg, 110mg, 150mg	
	Available as 2.5mg*, 10mg, 15mg, 20mg (*image not shown)	
	Available as 15mg*, 30mg, 60mg (*image not shown)	



- Like Warfarin, patients on DOACs should carry Patient Alert Cards – supplied by the hospital, dispensing chemist or GP practice.
- Like Warfarin (an anticoagulant), DOACs may increase the risk of BLEEDING
- Like Warfarin, in case of major bleeding events, DOACs should be stopped and medical attention sought immediately
- UNLIKE warfarin, which has been used for decades, DOACs are new, and information about side effects is still being collected. Please report any side effects to the prescriber
- **Do not stop DOACs without talking to a doctor, as patients are at risk of suffering from a stroke or other complications due to blood clot formation**
- Like Warfarin, DOACs prevent clots by helping to thin patients' blood
- **Patients should NEVER be administered warfarin plus a DOAC, or more than ONE DOAC together, or a DOAC with low molecular weight heparins (LMWH)**

Signs and symptoms of bleeding include bruising or bleeding under the skin, tar-coloured stools, blood in urine, nose-bleed, dizziness, tiredness, paleness or weakness, sudden severe headache, coughing up blood or vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds, etc. In case of a bleeding event which does not stop on its own, immediately seek medical attention.

NB. Patient Alert Cards are available from the Medicines Management Team

For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on 01254 282087 (BwD CCG) or 01282 644807 (EL CCG)