

Anticoagulant Agents for Inpatient Use – Failure Mode Effects Analysis

Pharmacist checklist for anticoagulation therapy

- Clear indication for anticoagulation
- No contraindications for therapy
- Labs
- Clinically significant drug interactions
- Correct drug, dosing regimen and route
- IV product suitable for administration (compatibilities, particulates, labeling, in date, etc.)
- Educate patient/caregiver, assess understanding
- Duration of therapy established

Nurse checklist for anticoagulation therapy

- Clear indication for anticoagulation
- Initiate protocol if ordered
- Labs
- Obtain medication
- Verify five “rights”
- Visually inspect IV product prior to administration
- Pump programmed correctly
- Injection/infusion site
- Check for signs/symptoms of bleeding or thrombosis
- Educate patient/caregiver/assess understanding
- Follow up appointment set
- Prescription given to patient

Physician checklist for anticoagulation therapy

- Correct diagnosis, clear indication for anticoagulation, no contraindications
- Complete medication history – account for drug interactions
- Order appropriate labs
- Labs checked prior to writing medication order
- Use current policy/orders/protocol
- Order is legible and without unapproved abbreviations
- Order adjusted as needed
- Duration of therapy established
- Discharge prescription written and given to patient
- Transfer care to primary care practitioner

Health system assessment checklist for anticoagulation therapy

- A limited number of concentrations of heparin are available in the facility
- Different strengths of anticoagulant medications are stored in separate locations in dispensing machines (i.e. not side-by-side)
- Protocols for anticoagulant use are developed and in use
- Nurses receive training in the use of anticoagulants, including programming pumps
- The final concentrations of anticoagulant infusions are standardized
- Anticoagulant infusions are available as “floor stock” only where clearly needed
- Use of “smart pump” technology for anticoagulant infusions
- Accountabilities for checking labs and ensuring follow up appointments are assigned and procedures are standardized
- Establish critical laboratory values for anticoagulation monitoring