



High Desert Health System POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 329
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT: PHARMACIST MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS RECEIVING ANTICOAGULANTS

PURPOSE: To authorize qualified pharmacists, acting as agents of the referring provider, to provide clinical management of patients at the Anticoagulation Clinic.

POLICY: Qualified pharmacists (as defined below) may clinically manage anticoagulation therapy, through adjustment of medications and medication dosages per protocol, for patients who are referred to or have been seen in the Anticoagulation Clinic, when the Anticoagulation Clinic Provider is not available or requests assistance.

DEFINITION:

1. A “qualified pharmacist” is defined as a Pharmacist who has either:
 - a. Completed Clinical Residency, or
 - b. Demonstrated clinical experience in direct patient care delivery.
2. “Clinical residency” means an organized, directed, post graduate training program in a defined area of pharmacy practice.
3. “Demonstrated clinical experience” means displayed competence in anticoagulation management via clinical experience.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE QUALIFIED PHARMACIST AND PHARMACY DIRECTOR:

The qualified pharmacist is required to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of anticoagulation management via an initial probationary period.
2. Complete a continuing medication education activity that pertains to anticoagulation annually. That activity must be approved by the Pharmacy Director and/or HDHS Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P & T Committee) before the qualified pharmacist completes it.

The Pharmacy Director is:

1. Responsible for ensuring and maintaining records of the qualified pharmacist’s demonstrated competency in anticoagulation management.
2. Responsible for reviewing and maintaining records of continuing education activities completed by the qualified pharmacist.

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PROCEDURE:

1. In the event that the Anticoagulation Clinic Provider is unavailable or needs assistance, he/she will call the clinical pharmacist to cover and/or assist at the Anticoagulation Clinic during that time period.
2. Under the circumstances mentioned above, a qualified pharmacist may provide clinical management and medication adjustment to anticoagulated patients managed or to be managed in the Anticoagulation Clinic.
3. A designated medical staff member who serves as a supervisor for the Anticoagulation Clinic will provide oversight and be available for consultation. If this supervisor is unavailable, the qualified pharmacist may consult with the patient's referring provider.

Duties, responsibilities, and authorized functions of the qualified pharmacist acting as proxy for the Anticoagulation Clinic healthcare provider:

1. Review the patient's chart for goals of therapy, medical history, and indications for anticoagulation.
2. Perform medication and disease-state related physical assessment.
3. Educate the patient on disease state and medication therapy.
4. Treatment: Initiate, discontinue, and adjust doses of anticoagulant medications as needed to reach treatment goals per current ACCP Chest Guidelines and the protocols written in the ANTICOAGULATION High Desert Health System Providers' Manual.
5. Monitoring: Order laboratory tests as necessary to assess and monitor for therapeutic effectiveness, safety, adverse effects, compliance, and therapeutic complications. Examples of these tests included but are not limited to: complete blood count, liver function tests, protime, INR, aPTT, and anti-Xa levels. Such laboratory tests shall be ordered under the name of the healthcare provider running the Anticoagulation Clinic.
6. Manage anticoagulant and antiplatelet therapy in the perioperative period, if requested.
7. Document interventions, action plans, and/or encounters in the patient's electronic medical record in a manner such that the information will be accessible to all parties granted access to the patient's medical record.
8. Update the patient's medication list.
9. Make therapeutic decisions outside the guidelines of the Anticoagulation Provider Manual **ONLY** upon consultation with either the medical supervisor of the Anticoagulation Clinic or the patient's referring provider.
10. Alert provider when any medication prescribed will affect anticoagulation therapy.

REFERENCES:

1. California State Pharmacy Law Book,
http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/laws_regs/lawbook.pdf
 - Section 4052.1. Permitted Pharmacist Procedures in Licensed Health Care Facility

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- Section 4052.2. Permitted Pharmacist Procedures in Health Care Facility; Home Health Agency or Clinic with Physician Oversight

Approved By: Beryl Brooks (ADMR, COMP AMB HEALTH CARE CENTER), Ruth Oren (CHIEF PHYSICIAN I ANESTHESIOLOGY), Susan Knapp (CHIEF NURSING OFFICER I)	
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