



# Anticoagulant Prophylaxis for Pediatric Patients at Risk of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) : What You Should Know



## What it covers

- The use of anticoagulant prophylaxis for VTE prevention in children.



## Why it matters

- VTE is a significant complication among hospitalized children and those with chronic medical.
- VTE in children has a complex pathophysiology with different pediatric subgroups exhibiting distinct thrombosis and bleeding risk profiles.
- Anticoagulant prophylaxis strategies for VTE prevention in children need to be age stratified and cannot be extrapolated from adult strategies.
- Development of risk-stratified and subgroup-specific anticoagulant prophylaxis strategies is critical for the prevention of pediatric VTE.



## Who it affects

- Newborns through 18 years of age; hospitalized children, children with chronic medical conditions, trauma and those undergoing surgical or invasive procedures
- Pediatricians, pediatric hematologists, pediatric oncologists, pediatric intensivists, pediatric surgeons (general surgery and trauma), pediatric gastroenterologist and neonatologists



## What are the highlights

- These are evidence-based guidelines for the use of anticoagulant prophylaxis for VTE prevention in predominantly hospitalized children.
- Following the principle of "first do no harm," anticoagulant prophylaxis should not be initiated in children at high risk of bleeding, even if their risk of VTE is high.
- Institutions are encouraged to create guidelines for optimal anticoagulant prophylaxis management in children, including peri-procedural care.
- Due to the low level of existing evidence, additional research is required to develop improved evidence-based care recommendations.

**Total number of panel recommendations: 12**

## REFERENCE

Betensky M, Azzam M, Bercovitz R, et al. American Society of Hematology/International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis 2026 guidelines for anticoagulant prophylaxis of pediatric patients at risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE). 2026. *Blood Advances*. 10.1182/bloodadvances.2025019415

For more information on the ASH ISTH Clinical Practice Guidelines on Anticoagulant Prophylaxis for Pediatric Patients at Risk of VTE, visit <https://www.hematology.org/education/clinicians/guidelines-and-quality-care/clinical-practice-guidelines/venous-thromboembolism-guidelines/pediatrics>

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