Optimal Management of Anticoagulation Therapy

What it covers

• Optimal care management of anticoagulation therapy in patients who have previously experienced a clot

Why it matters

• Anticoagulant drugs must be used with skill in order to reduce risks of bleeding and developing another clot.
• Health care providers often have to make the difficult decision to continue or stop anticoagulation therapy following a major bleeding event.

Who it affects

• Patients who have already had a blood clot and need to take anticoagulant drugs
• Pharmacists, clinicians, nurses, and health care policy makers

What are the highlights

• Managing anticoagulation therapy is complex. Patients should receive care from specialized anticoagulation management service centers versus primary care physicians whenever possible.
• Most patients needing to interrupt warfarin for invasive procedures do not require a short-acting injectable anticoagulant administered during the peri-operative period, so-called bridge therapy.
• Management of life-threatening bleeding during anticoagulant therapy requires thoughtful use of anticoagulant reversal therapies.
• Many patients who survive major bleeding during anticoagulant therapy should resume taking anticoagulants.

Total number of panel recommendations: 25

REFERENCE