

# Warfarin anticoagulation in children

## Information for parents and carers

### Introduction

Your child has been referred to the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust paediatric haematology team for the monitoring of their warfarin anticoagulation by International Normalised Ratio INR testing. The consultant lead is Dr Helen New, consultant paediatric haematologist, and the team includes a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and specialist registrar (SpR). Dr New and the CNS will arrange an appointment to meet you in clinic for an introductory session at St Mary's Hospital.

### How often will my child need a blood test?

Depending on the stability of the INR, your child may require blood tests frequently (around one to four weekly). A laboratory test of the INR is also usually required after each change of dose of warfarin. Once the INR is stable then testing frequency may be reduced to suit your child's clinical needs.

Every time monitoring is required, your CNS will arrange for your child to attend the hospital for a blood test. Usually no more than 2mls of blood is required for each INR, unless other tests were requested. The hospital staff will make every effort to minimise any stress that you or your child may encounter during the process of taking blood. Once the test is done and the results are available, the CNS will contact you to advise you of any possible changes to the dose of warfarin, and also the date for your child's next blood test.

### Do I need to bring anything to my child's appointments?

The 'Yellow Book' anticoagulant therapy record is an essential tool of communication between professionals and families. Please keep it with you at all times and bring it to the hospital whenever you attend for a blood test or for a review. Please remember to enter in this book any relevant information that may be given to you over the telephone or by any other healthcare professional (eg dentist, pharmacist) involved in the care of your child.

### Who do I contact for more help and information?

It is important to note that the responsibility for the health of your child in relation to the condition for which he/she is requiring to take anti-coagulation therapy remains in the hands of the referring doctors. If you have any query other than regarding their anti-coagulation monitoring, this should be discussed with the referring team or any alternative contact that they have recommended.

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## For further advice regarding anticoagulation

### Between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, please contact:

- Ana Cabrera, clinical nurse specialist  
0203 312 5023 or 0203 312 6666, and ask to bleep 1230
- Paediatric haematology SpR  
0203 312 6666 and ask to bleep 2261

### Between 5pm and 9pm Monday to Friday, and 9am and 5pm Saturday and Sunday, please contact:

- Paediatric haematology SpR  
0203 312 6666 and ask to bleep 2261

### For any other times out of these hours, please contact:

- Haematology SpR  
0203 312 6666 and ask to bleep haematology SpR

**In an emergency, such as for bleeding, please attend your nearest accident and emergency department.**

## How do I make a comment about my treatment?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff are happy to answer any questions you may have. If you were pleased with your care and want to write to let us know we would appreciate your time in doing so.

However, if your experience of our services does not meet your expectations and you would like to speak to someone other than staff caring for you, please contact the patient advice and liaison service (PALS) on **020 3313 0088** for Charing Cross, Hammersmith, and Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospitals or **020 3312 7777** for St Mary's and Western Eye Hospitals. You can also email PALS at [pals@imperial.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@imperial.nhs.uk). The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and are often able to solve problems on behalf of patients.

Alternatively, you may wish to express your concerns in writing to:

Chief Executive, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, Trust Headquarters,  
The Bays, South Wharf Road, London W2 1NY

## Alternative formats

This information can be provided on request in large print, as a sound recording, in Braille, or in alternative languages. Please contact the communications team on **020 3312 5592**.