

## Initiation of Anticoagulation (AC) For Stroke Prevention In Non-Valvular Atrial Fibrillation (NVAF)

### 1) Patient with NVAF diagnosis

Discuss the risk:benefit and treatment options of warfarin (*requires AC clinic follow up*) or direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) considering clinical features, co-morbidities, contra-indications, patient/carer preference and lifestyle (*see DOAC initiation/monitoring guidance- under development*)

### 2) Baseline Checks before DOAC Initiation (*see DOAC initiation/monitoring guidance and link calculating renal function for DOACs guidance*)

### 3) Prescribe Edoxaban 60mg daily (*Locally preferred DOAC for NVAF but see special circumstances table below*)

Reduce dose to 30mg if: Body weight <60kg, or CrCl 15-49ml/min, or co-prescribed ciclosporin, dronedarone, erythromycin or ketoconazole  
See BNF and SPC for edoxaban drug interactions, cautions and contra-indications (BNF: [www.bnf.org](http://www.bnf.org)) (SPC: [www.medicines.org.uk](http://www.medicines.org.uk))

### 4) Patient counselling (*See: DOAC initiation/monitoring guidance for counselling checklist-under development*)

Give patient/carer anticoagulation alert card and product information literature (*link: oral AC alert card information for HCPs*)  
Refer to community pharmacist for New Medicines Service (NMS) to support counselling and patient adherence

### 5) DOAC review including adherence checks (*See: DOAC initiation/monitoring guidance-under development, Calculating renal function for DOACs guidance-approved, DOAC patient pathway NVAF-approved, FAQs for DOACs- under development*)

Special circumstances	Recommendation	Special circumstances	Recommendation	Special circumstances	Recommendation
<b>Pregnancy/Breast feeding</b>	LMWH preferred/ specialist advice	<b>Mechanical heart valves</b> (includes TAVI/TAMI, tMVR or MV repair within 3 months)	Warfarin/specialist advice- haematology/cardiology	<b>Severe renal impairment</b> (CrCl < 15ml/min)	Warfarin/specialist advice
<b>Active malignancy/ chemotherapy</b>	Specialist advice	<b>Moderate to severe mitral stenosis</b>	Warfarin	<b>High CrCl &gt;95ml/min</b>	Rivaroxaban/specialist advice
<b>HIV antiretrovirals and hepatitis antivirals</b>	Specialist advice	<b>Post coronary event/intervention</b>	Cardiology advice: antiplatelet review	<b>Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APLS)</b>	Warfarin/specialist advice
<b>Menorrhagia</b>	Specialist advice	<b>Extremes of body weight &lt;50kg and &gt;120kg</b>	Specialist advice	<b>On anti-epileptic medication</b>	Specialist advice

B. For advice on peri-procedural interruption of anticoagulation and other issues relating to anticoagulation please seek advice and guidance from your local anticoagulation clinic

Approval date: March 2020

Review date: March 2022 (or earlier if indicated)

**NOTE that all DOAC agents are available according to NICE guidance.**

South East London Area Prescribing Committee. A partnership between NHS organisations in South East London: Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and GSTFT/KCH /SLAM/ Oxleas NHS Foundation Trusts/Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust

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### Links:

- 1) DOAC initiation/monitoring guidance template (under development)
- 2) Calculating renal function (CrCl) for DOACs guidance (approved Dec 2019, link: <https://www.lambethccg.nhs.uk/news-and-publications/meeting-papers/south-east-london-area-prescribing-committee/Documents/Cardiovascular%20Disease%20Guidelines/Calculating%20renal%20function%20for%20DOACs%20Sept%202019%20FINAL.pdf> )
- 3) DOAC patient pathway for NVAF (approved Feb 2020) link: <http://www.lambethccg.nhs.uk/news-and-publications/meeting-papers/south-east-london-area-prescribing-committee/Documents/Cardiovascular%20Disease%20Guidelines/DOAC%20patient%20referral%20pathway%20NVAF%20March%202020.pdf> )
- 4) SEL oral anticoagulation alert card information for HCPs (once updated by NHS England, current link: [https://www.lambethccg.nhs.uk/news-and-publications/meeting-papers/south-east-london-area-prescribing-committee/Documents/Cardiovascular%20Disease%20Guidelines/SEL%20Oral%20Anticoagulant%20Alert%20Card%20\(information%20for%20HCPs\)%20Oct%202016.pdf](https://www.lambethccg.nhs.uk/news-and-publications/meeting-papers/south-east-london-area-prescribing-committee/Documents/Cardiovascular%20Disease%20Guidelines/SEL%20Oral%20Anticoagulant%20Alert%20Card%20(information%20for%20HCPs)%20Oct%202016.pdf) )
- 5) FAQs for DOACs document (under development)

### References: on-line references accessed 03/10/19 unless stated

- 1) Summary of product characteristics (SPC) for apixaban: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=%22apixaban%22>
- 2) Summary of product characteristics (SPC) for dabigatran <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=dabigatran>
- 3) Summary of product characteristics (SPC) for edoxaban <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=edoxaban>
- 4) Summary of product characteristics (SPC) for rivaroxaban <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=rivaroxaban>
- 5) British National Formulary for edoxaban <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/edoxaban.html> accessed 20/01/20
- 6) Chronic kidney disease in adults: assessment and management: Clinical guideline [CG182] Published date: July 2014 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg182/chapter/1-Recommendations#pharmacotherapy>
- 7) Specialist Pharmacy Service: Actions that can make anticoagulant therapy safer (updated 2018 to include DOACs) <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Implementing-Patient-Safety-Alert-18-anticoagulant-therapy-resource-May-2018.pdf>
- 8) Edoxaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation: Technology appraisal guidance [TA355] Published date: 23 September 2015 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta355>
- 9) Rivaroxaban for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in people with atrial fibrillation: Technology appraisal guidance [TA256] Published date: 23 May 2012 <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA256>
- 10) Dabigatran etexilate for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in atrial fibrillation: Technology appraisal guidance [TA249] Published date: 15 March 2012 <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA249>
- 11) Apixaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation: Technology appraisal guidance [TA275] Published date: 27 February 2013 <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA275>
- 12) Anticoagulation – oral: management. Last revised in June 2019 <https://cks.nice.org.uk/anticoagulation-oral>
- 13) Giugliano R.P; Edoxaban versus warfarin in patients with atrial fibrillation; November 28, 2013; N Engl J Med 2013; 369:2093-2104 (ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48 study)
- 14) MHRA: Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs): increased risk of recurrent thrombotic events in patients with antiphospholipid syndrome; 19 June 2019; <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/direct-acting-oral-anticoagulants-doacs-increased-risk-of-recurrent-thrombotic-events-in-patients-with-antiphospholipid-syndrome>
- 15) Lopez-Lopez J et al; Oral anticoagulants for prevention of stroke in atrial fibrillation: systematic review, network meta-analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis; BMJ 2017; 359. Gibson C.M. et al; Prevention of bleeding in patients with atrial fibrillation undergoing PCI; NEJM 2016 <https://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa1611594>
- 16) Steffen J, Verhamme P, Potpara T et al; The 2018 European Heart Rhythm Association Practical Guide on the use of non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants in patients with atrial fibrillation; EHJ 2018; vol 39, issue 16: 1330-1393 ([www.escardio.org](http://www.escardio.org)) last accessed 20/11/19

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