

Management of Surgical Patients already on Warfarin Therapy

Purpose

To guide the management of patients receiving surgery who are already on Warfarin Therapy

Scope/Audience

Registered Medical Officers, Nurses and Midwives

Associated documents

[Blue Book link - Patients on Oral Anticoagulants Undergoing Surgery](#)

[Blue book link - Thrombosis, Embolism and Anticoagulation](#)

[Blue book - Venous Thromboembolism \(VTE\)](#)

Local Policies

Information

Surgical patients may be taking long term oral anticoagulants for atrial fibrillation or prosthetic heart valves or may be on Warfarin because of recent venous thromboembolism.

In each patient the risk of surgical bleeding must be balanced against the risk of recurrent (or new) thrombosis.

Refer to your local service policy or refer the Blue Book links above

Guideline Owner	Anaesthetics Clinical Director
Guideline Authoriser	Chief Medical Officer, Executive Director of Nursing
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