Anticoagulant Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)

PATIENT SAFETY

Occurrences That Could

ADE²:

count)

Point to an Anticoagulant

• Stat order for PT/INR,

Abrupt stop order for

Stat order for PT/INR

• Stat scan for DVT (deep vein thrombosis)

Transfer to hospital

Removal of a medication

Addition of a medication

medication

Vitamin K

Administration of

Stat chest x-ray

PTT, platelet count, or CBC (complete blood

Definitions:

CDC: An adverse drug event (ADE) is when someone is harmed by a medicine.¹

CMS: An injury resulting from drug-related medical interventions.²

Quick Facts:

- It is generally estimated that about half of ADEs are preventable.³
- Antidiabetic meds, anticoagulants/antiplatelet meds and opioids account for **more than 50%** of ED visits for ADEs in Medicare patients.³
- Each year, ADEs account for nearly 700,000 ED visits and 100,000 hospitalizations.³

Common Effects of Anticoagulant ADEs²:



Abrupt Onset Hypotension (Low Blood Pressure)



Blood in Urine, Feces, or Vomit



Low Platelet Count, Elevated PT (Prothrombin Time)/INR (International Normlized Ratio), PTT (Partial Thromboplastin Time)

Pain or Tenderness and Swelling

of Upper or Lower Extremity,

Increased Armth, Edema and/or

Erythema of Affected Extremity



Bruising, Nosebleeds, Bleeding Gums, Prolonged Bleeding from Wound, IV, or Surgical Sites



Feelings of Anxiety or Dread



Unexplained Shortness of Breath, Chest Pain, Coughing, Coughing Up Blood, Hemoptysis (Expectoration of Blood from Some Part of the Respiratory Tract⁴)

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult_adversedrugevents.html

- ² https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/QAPI/Downloads/Adverse-Drug-Event-Trigger-Tool.pdf
- ³ https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/medication-errors-and-adverse-drug-events
- ⁴ https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hemoptysis#medicalDictionary



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