

Anticoagulant Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)



PATIENT SAFETY

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)



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



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



Blood in Urine, Feces, or Vomit



Pain or Tenderness and Swelling of Upper or Lower Extremity, Increased Armth, Edema and/or Erythema of Affected Extremity



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)

Occurrences That Could Point to an Anticoagulant ADE²:

- Stat order for PT/INR, PTT, platelet count, or CBC (complete blood count)
- Abrupt stop order for medication
- Administration of Vitamin K
- Stat order for PT/INR
- Stat chest x-ray
- Stat scan for DVT (deep vein thrombosis)
- Transfer to hospital
- Removal of a medication
- Addition of a medication

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult_adversedrugsafety.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>