



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Warfarin management review in government out-patient clinics in New Territories East Cluster in Hong Kong

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Introduction

Warfarin is considered as a high risk medication. Over or under-warfarinization can lead to significant impact on patients. A guideline on management of patient on warfarin therapy was introduced by the Family Medicine Department of New Territories East Cluster (NTEC FM) of Hospital Authority of Hong Kong in 2013. The guideline included 1) Set reminder in computer clinical management system regarding which clinic was issuing warfarin, the indication and date of initiation 2) Issue warfarin education booklet with information on indication for anticoagulation, target INR, date of commencement, proposed duration of treatment, adjustment record 3) Refer high risk group patients to pharmacist for education 4) Check INR before each consultation 5) Titrate warfarin according to standardized titration table.

Objectives

The audit aims to review the current practice of warfarin management and identify deficiencies for improvement.

Methodology

Audit criteria were set according to the management guideline. All 108 warfarin users followed up in the 8 government out-patient clinics of NTEC FM within the period January to April 2013 were recruited. Clinical notes were reviewed in October 2013. Data was analyzed.

Result

Result: All 108 warfarin users had reminder set. 102(94.4%) had been issued with warfarin education booklets. 4(3.7%) had not been referred to pharmacist even they belonged to high risk group. 2(1.9%) cases had not checked INR before the consultation. 12(11.1%) patients should have dosage adjustment according to the titration table but was not performed. Among these users, 6(50%) had previous INR within the target range. 2(16.7%) were not titrated because of advance age with history of fluctuating INR. 4(33.3%) were not titrated without documentation of reason in the clinical notes. Conclusion: It would be a good practice to follow the management guideline to improve medication safety. With the review, further training

and improvement in titration of warfarin would be beneficial.