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# An Inpatient Guide to Warfarin Administration Timings Anticoagulant Department



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## Further Information

We endeavor to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [patient.advice@asph.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.advice@asph.nhs.uk). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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**Department:** Medicine / PMO

**Version:** 1

**Published:** December 2016

**Review:** November 2018

You will be referred to the Anticoagulation Clinic who will manage your Warfarin levels in the community and assist in the transition back to your usual dose time.

## **An Inpatient Guide to Warfarin Administration Timings**

**For queries, please contact a member of the ward team**

If you were already taking Warfarin before your hospital admission, you may have been told to take your tablets at around 6pm. This is the traditional time to take Warfarin in order for the INR, (Warfarin blood level), test results to be available before taking your 6pm dose. There are no other significant reasons for this particular dosing time, other than for convenience.

However, in the hospital setting, for a variety of reasons, the 6pm dosing time presents more of a challenge. For many patients, during their hospital stay, INR control may become more difficult. This may be due to a change in diet, illness, or the administration of other drugs, such as antibiotics, which can affect the INR level. For this reason, you are likely to require more frequent INR blood tests and minor alterations in your Warfarin dose whilst you are in hospital.

In order to ensure the safe management of Warfarin dosing and optimal management of INR levels during an inpatient stay, the dosing time whilst you are in hospital will be 2pm.

Once you have been discharged from hospital you should go back to taking Warfarin at your usual time and you will be provided with information on how to do this.

## Key Points:

- Traditionally Warfarin is taken around 6pm
- Due to unique differences in the hospital setting, Warfarin will be given at 2pm during your hospital stay
- This change in dosing time is to ensure more accurate and safer control of your Warfarin levels whilst you are in hospital
- When at home, you can go back to taking Warfarin at your usual time
- On the day you leave hospital, check with your nurse whether you have already been given your Warfarin dose that day

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. Do I need to do anything?

- NO - the doctors and nurses will arrange everything for you while you are in hospital to ensure your Warfarin levels are well controlled.

### 2. Is this change in dosing time safe?

- YES - research has shown that it is very unlikely that there will be any adverse effects from this change in timing. This change is to improve patient safety.

### 3. What happens when I am discharged from hospital?

- When you leave hospital you should go back to your usual dose time.

But first:

- Before you are discharged, please check with your nurse if you have already been given your Warfarin dose for that day; **it is important that you do not take two doses in one day.**

If **YES** – do not take another dose at home. Continue taking Warfarin at your usual time, from the day after you have been discharged.

If **NO** – take your dose at your usual time at home.