

PROTOCOL FOR RESIDENTS EXPERIENCING A FALL WHO ARE ON BLOOD THINNING MEDICATION

People on blood thinning medication (also known as anticoagulants) are at increased risk of blood loss: either from cuts, bruises, skin tears or swelling.

They are also at a greater risk of an internal bleed which may not be visible.

Oral blood thinning medications are:

- **RIVAROXABAN** (Xarelto)
- **DABIGATRAN** (Pradaxa)
- **APIXABAN** (Eliquis)
- **EDOXYBAN** (Lixiana)
- **WARFARIN** (Coumadin)

Some anticoagulants can be given by injection – check with a pharmacist or GP.

Should a resident who is on blood thinning medication fall, resulting in a cut, swollen or bruised areas, or you suspect they have hit their head;

medical advice should be sought IMMEDIATELY.

Take the residents observations: temperature, blood pressure, pulse and oxygen saturations (NEWS 2 is a good standard) at regular intervals and record in their care plan.

As well as obvious pain, swelling and bruising, symptoms of internal bleeding are:

- Pain and/or Swelling at the site of the injury
- Nausea and vomiting
- Pale, clammy, sweaty skin.
- Breathlessness
- Extreme thirst
- Differing levels of consciousness or confusion.

**Call GP, 111 or 999 – depending on the severity of symptoms
Particularly if you suspect a head injury.**

- Inform the emergency service of what blood thinning medication is prescribed and at what dosage.
- Inform the emergency service of the observations taken (NEWS 2 score)
- Follow all advice given by the emergency service.
- Document all actions taken (with time, date and persons involved) **ASAP** in care plan.
Include: NEWS 2 Chart, Body Map and **detailed** accident form.

Commence hourly checks and obs to ensure resident's condition stabilises.