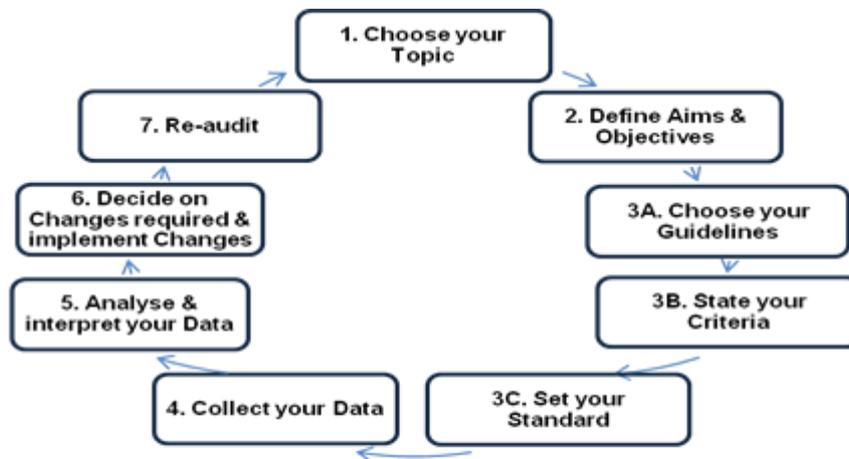




Warfarin Anticoagulation in General Practice Sample Audit



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Reviewed July 2019 by Dr Joe Gallagher

Purpose of ICGP sample audits on specific topics

The purpose of the ICGP sample audit for each topic area is to provide practitioners with audit topic proposals and related tools in order to aid them in carrying out a clinical audit in this topic area. For each topic, a specific guideline is chosen which identifies best practice for the relevant topic. Following this, examples of the elements of care or activity that could be measured are provided – these are referred to as “criteria”. Finally, a “data collection tool” is provided, which contains examples of the types of data that are required in order to audit each sample criterion. A separate document, the ICGP Audit Toolkit, provides more detailed generic instructions on how to carry out and report your audit.

Sample Audit Topic: Anticoagulation in General Practice- Warfarin

Disclaimer

In all instances where ‘your patients’ are referred to, this can be taken to mean the patients you see. Where ‘your practice’ is mentioned, this refers to the work you do, not necessarily that you need to be based in one particular practice.

Best Practice Guideline:

Anticoagulation in General Practice/Primary Care Part 1: Warfarin - Quick Reference Guide (2014) <http://www.icgp.ie/go/library/catalogue/item/C3B049AE-BEE4-F383-246DAF072339569B>

Professional Competence Domains: Clinical Skills
Management
Patient Safety and Quality of Care

Sample Criteria:

1. Patients taking Warfarin should have clinical indications, duration of therapy, loading regime, dosage, prothrombin time target range and interval for repetition of INR clearly documented in notes.
2. When prescribing for patients on Warfarin, the importance of compliance of time of day to take medication should be specified on the prescription.
3. Patients on Warfarin must be advised in relation to interactions with food and medications including herbs and supplements.
4. Patient education (regarding the hazards of Warfarin and symptoms and signs of over anticoagulation and under anticoagulation) should be given in patient held booklet and documented.
5. Patients taking Warfarin should be reassessed at three months for continuing risk factors.

Choose a single criterion or several criteria from the above examples on which to conduct your audit. If you are auditing a very small number of patients who are prescribed Warfarin, you may need to examine a greater number of criteria. There is no minimum or maximum number of patients stipulated, however your sample should include current/recent patients.

Once you have chosen your criterion/criteria then set your standard (sometimes known as your target). This is your desired level of performance and is usually stated as a percentage. Beware of setting standards of 100%; standards should be realistic for your practice (perfection may not be possible).

The aim of a Data Collection tool is to provide examples of the types of data that are required in order to audit each sample criterion.

Criterion 1: Patients taking Warfarin should have clinical indications, duration of therapy, loading regime, dosage, prothrombin time target range and interval for repetition of INR clearly documented in notes.

Data Collection Tool:

- Number of patients reviewed for this audit i.e. all patients with an active prescription for warfarin identified in your practice.
- Number of patients with an active prescription for warfarin and have clear clinical indications as listed above recorded in their records.
- Number of above who have the condition recorded for which warfarin is prescribed.

Criterion 2: When prescribing for patients on Warfarin, the importance of compliance of time of day to take medication should be specified on the prescription.

Data Collection Tool:

- Number of patients reviewed for this audit i.e. all patients with an active prescription for warfarin identified in your practice.
- Number of patients who have compliance of time of day to take medication specified on the prescription.

Criterion 3: Patients on Warfarin must be advised in relation to interactions with food and medications including herbs and supplements.

Data Collection Tool:

- Number of patients reviewed for this audit i.e. all patients with an active prescription for warfarin identified in your practice.
- Percentage of above who have been offered patient information leaflet on important Interactions with Warfarin (Medications, Foods, Herbs and Supplements).

Criterion 4: Patient education (regarding the hazards of Warfarin and symptoms and signs of over anticoagulation and under anticoagulation) should be given in patient held booklet and documented.

Data Collection Tool:

- Number of patients included in audit i.e. All patients taking Warfarin identified (computer drug search).
- Number of patients where the clinical record clearly documents patient education and the provision of a patient held booklet about signs and symptoms of over anticoagulation and under anticoagulation, and appropriate action to take if bleeding/adverse reaction occurs.

Criterion 5: Patients taking Warfarin should be reassessed at three months for continuing risk factors.

Data Collection Tool:

- Number of patients reviewed for this audit i.e. all patients with an active prescription for warfarin identified in your practice.
- Number of these patients who were assessed at the three month mark for continuing risk factors. At these follow-up visits, the following should be checked and recorded in patient records:
 - Medication compliance (ensure correct dosage is being taken and patient understands the colour coding dosage of warfarin).
 - Any concerns with medication.
 - Any adverse events.
 - Dosage, INR and interval for repetition of INR should be clearly documented in notes and patient held booklet.

Original publication: 2016

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Reviewed: 2019

Next review due: 2022

The next steps are to:

- Analyse and interpret your data via comparison with your target
- Reflect on your initial findings with your Practice Team
- Decide on what changes need to be made and to implement these changes
- Re-audit your practice

A detailed explanation of all of these steps can be found in the ICGP Audit Toolkit, which is available on the ICGP Website at the following locations: www.icgp.ie/audit