

Stopping Anticoagulants or Antiplatelets prior to Surgery or a Procedure

An information guide



Stopping Anticoagulants or Antiplatelets prior to Surgery or a Procedure

What is the purpose of these drugs?

Anticoagulants and antiplatelets perform a vital role in the prevention of medical conditions such as stroke, coronary artery disease and blood clots.

Examples of anticoagulants include Warfarin, Sinthrome, Apixaban and Rivaroxaban, Edoxaban and Dabigatran.

Antiplatelet drugs include Aspirin, Clopidogrel and Ticagrelor as examples.

They are prescribed to be taken every day and their importance is often underestimated, but it is safe to withdraw them in controlled circumstances for short periods to minimise the risk of bleeding during and after surgery.

It is **important** to note that these drugs should only be withdrawn when instructed to do so.

Warfarin/Sinthrome

You may be asked to temporary stop your Warfarin so you can safely have surgery or a procedure.

Warfarin/Sinthrome is usually stopped 5 days before your surgery or procedure.

It is very important you inform your anticoagulant clinic **immediately** if you have been listed for surgery or a procedure.

You are taking Warfarin/Sinthrome to prevent unwanted blood clots forming but most people can stop Warfarin for a short period with little risk. The anticoagulant clinic wants to ensure when you have to stop your Warfarin it is done safely.

You may require a substitute medication whilst not taking Warfarin/Sinthrome. This can be arranged through your anticoagulant clinic.

A plan of care will be written for you before your surgery or procedure by your anticoagulant clinic so you have clear instructions of what to do.

Warfarin/Sinthrome is normally restarted one day after your procedure and when it is safe to do so after surgery.

For procedures such as a tooth extraction or cataract surgery Warfarin/Sinthrome can be continued as normal but you will need a blood test to check your Warfarin/Sinthrome level is stable within 72 hours of the procedures being carried out.

Apixaban/Rivaroxaban/Edoxaban

You will need to stop taking these anticoagulants 1 or 2 days before surgery or a procedure.

The doctor carrying out the surgery or procedure will inform you when it is safe to stop and restart them. Alternatively if you are undergoing a general anaesthetic your pre-operative assessment nurse will provide instructions as to what to do.

Dabigatran

You will need to stop taking Dabigatran 1 -4 days before surgery or a procedure.

The doctor carrying out the surgery or procedure will inform you when it is safe to stop and restart Dabigatran. Alternatively if you are undergoing a general anaesthetic your pre-operative assessment nurse will provide instructions as to what to do.

Aspirin

Many minor to intermediate surgery or procedures can now be undertaken without having to withdraw daily dose Aspirin.

If you have a medical history of coronary artery disease or stroke it is particularly important that wherever possible daily Aspirin is continued.

Certain major surgery patients will be asked to withdraw Aspirin if safe to do so and this will be 7 days before surgery. Patients taking a higher dose of Aspirin will also be asked to withdraw Aspirin 7 days before.

It is worth noting that some pain relief products available over the counter contain Aspirin; these should be omitted 7 days prior to surgery. Your general practitioner or doctor can provide advice on suitable substitutes.

If you have any concerns about the instructions received please speak to your pre-assessment nurse or doctor.

Clopidogrel/Prasugrel

These antiplatelets perform similarly to Aspirin but with a stronger effect. Therefore it is more likely that you will be asked to stop these tablets 7 days before surgery as the anaesthetic and surgical options available to you would be restricted if otherwise.

In certain circumstances it is necessary to substitute with Aspirin providing it can be tolerated by the patient.

The doctor carrying out the surgery or procedure will inform you when it is safe to stop and restart them. Alternatively if you are undergoing a general anaesthetic your pre-operative assessment nurse will provide instructions as to what to do.

Ticagrelor

You will usually need to stop Ticagrelor 3-5 days before surgery. The doctor carrying out the surgery or procedure will inform you when it is safe to stop and restart them. Alternatively if you are undergoing a general anaesthetic your pre-operative assessment nurse will provide instructions as to what to do

Dipyridamole

On its own Dipyridamole can be withdrawn a full 24hours before surgery. It is quite often combined into a product called Asasantin which is withdrawn 7 days before surgery. The doctor carrying out the surgery or procedure will inform you when it is safe to stop and restart them. Alternatively if you are undergoing a general anaesthetic your pre-operative assessment nurse will provide instructions as to what to do.

What do I do if my procedure is cancelled or deferred?

If your surgery or procedure is cancelled / deferred ask the Doctor performing the surgery or procedure about restarting Warfarin/ Sintrome. If this information is not given to you please contact your anticoagulant clinic straight away for further instructions.

For all other anticoagulants and antiplatelets mentioned in this leaflet ask the doctor performing the surgery or procedure or ask the pre-operative assessment clinic about restarting the drug. However, the principle is that these important drugs must be restarted as soon as possible unless you have been instructed otherwise.

Contact Details for Anticoagulant Clinics

Anticoagulant clinic North

Telephone: 0161 720 4772

Internal: 44772

Anticoagulant clinic Rochdale

Telephone: 01706 517446

Internal: 57446

Intrahealth for Bury and Oldham patients

Telephone: 0191 5181564

Contact details for Pre-operative Assessment Clinics

The Royal Oldham Hospital

Telephone:0161 627 8272

Internal: 78272

North Manchester General Hospital

Telephone:0161 922 3563

Internal: 43563

Fairfield General Hospital

Telephone:0161 778 2304

Internal: 82304

Notes:

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897

For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).



www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup



www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group



Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) @NCAlliance_NHS

Date of publication: August 2020

Date of review: August 2020

Date of next review: August 2022

Ref: PI(DS)431

© The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group



www.pat.nhs.uk

www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk