

IMPROVING SUCCESS RATES IN ANTI-COAGULATION THERAPY UTILIZING POINT OF CARE TESTING AND PROVIDER EDUCATION

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Introduction: Appropriate anticoagulation with warfarin is a common problem in primary care. This quality improvement initiative sought to improve the number of patients with therapeutic INR levels taking warfarin.

Methods: Quality improvement interventions involved using a point of care (POC) monitoring method and reminders regarding appropriate warfarin adjustment. All patients undergoing anticoagulation were identified when a POC test was performed. Three INR monitoring data sets were identified: not utilizing POC testing, after POC testing, and after POC testing and reminders.

Results: Initial data was collected utilizing POC visits over a four-month period. Chart review of INR visits was conducted for the preceding four-month period to obtain send out lab data. A third four-month time frame was analyzed to obtain data following POC testing and reminders. Switching to POC monitoring did not result in an improvement in therapeutic INR values, but did result in more frequent monitoring (average per patient 3.25 vs 4.30, $p < 0.001$). POC reminders improved the percent of patients at goal INR value 31.6% vs 45.5%, $p, 0.05$). The weekly dosage of warfarin was adjusted correctly 85% of the time and the follow-up INR was arranged 51% of the time.

Discussion: Quality improvement initiatives using POC monitoring and reminders improved appropriate use of anticoagulation.