**Appendix 1: DOAC in AF Counselling Checklist for DOAC initiation for Healthcare Professionals (HCP)**

**Apixaban, Dabigatran,** **Edoxaban, Rivaroxaban**

DOAC Agent Counselled: …………………………........................................................................................................

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Counselling points** (tailor specifics to your patient and record any queries or concerns in  medical notes) | **HCP**  **Sign:** |
| **Explanation of an anticoagulant** (increases clotting time and reduces risk of clot formation) **and explanation of atrial fibrillation** (including stroke risk reduction)   * Information of DOAC therapy is available on the [NHS DOAC document](https://bsw.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/10/DOAC-Therapy-book_159E27.pdf). * Please see [Home - electronic medicines compendium (emc)](https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc#gref) for individual patient information leaflets of the DOAC agent. |  |
| **Differences between DOAC and warfarin** *(if applicable for patients converting from warfarin to DOAC therapy or offering choice of anticoagulation agent)*   * No routine INR monitoring * Fixed dosing * No dietary restrictions * Alcohol consumption – counsel patient on bleeding risk and aim for <8 units of alcohol/week * Fewer drug interactions |  |
| **Name of drug:** generic |  |
| **Explanation of dose:** strength & frequency  *\*Please review prescribed dosage in line with recommendation in Section 4 above.* |  |
| **Duration of therapy:** lifelong (unless risk: benefit of anticoagulation changes) |  |
| **Oral administration –** rivaroxaban should be taken with food. Apixaban, dabigatran or edoxaban can be taken with or without food. For patients with swallowing difficulties apixaban, edoxaban and rivaroxaban may be crushed – refer to the [summary of product characteristics for more information](http://www.medicines.org.uk) |  |
| **Missed doses:** Message is to “take the dose as soon as you remember and then at the same time each day”. For further information:   * **Apixaban and dabigatran** can be taken within 6 hours of missed dose, otherwise omit the misseddose * **Edoxaban and rivaroxaban** can be taken within 12 hours of missed dose, otherwise omit the misseddose |  |
| **Extra doses taken:** advise patient toobtain advice immediately from pharmacist/GP/NHS Direct (111)  *It is recommended patient should temporarily stop DOAC and observe for any sign of bleedings.* |  |
| **Importance of adherence:** short half-life and associated risk of stroke and/or thrombosis if patient is non-adherent |  |
| **Common and serious side-effects and who/when to refer:** symptoms of bleeding/unexplainedbruising.  Avoidance of contact sports   * Single/self-terminating bleeding episode – routine appointment with GP/pharmacist * Prolonged/recurrent/severe bleeding/head injury – A&E   Major bleeds managed/reversed by supportive measures and Prothrombin Complex Concentrate (PCC). Antidotes: *Idarucizumab for dabigatran (NICE TA);* Andexanet alfa for GI bleed with apixaban/rivaroxaban |  |
| **Drug interactions and concomitant medication:** avoid NSAID’s. Always check with pharmacist regarding OTC/herbal/complimentary medicines |  |
| **Inform all healthcare professionals of DOAC therapy:** GP, nurse, dentist, pharmacist i.e. prior to surgery, hospital admissions  This includes recommending patient to carry the patient alert card at all time. |  |
| **Pregnancy and breastfeeding:** potential risk to foetus – obtain medical advice as soon as possible if pregnant/considering pregnancy. Avoid in breastfeeding |  |
| **Storage:** dabigatran must be kept in original packaging – moisture sensitive. All other DOAC’s suitable for medication compliance aids if required |  |
| **Follow-up appointments, blood tests, and repeat prescriptions:** whereandwhen  Record here: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………  *It is recommended to set an alert or entry onto patient’s clinical record for the next follow up reviews. 1st follow up after initiation recommended for 4 weeks after initiation* |  |
| **Issue relevant patient information AF booklet/leaflet and anticoagulant patient alert card** (*For AC alert card supplies-* email: [pcse.supplies-leeds@nhs.net](mailto:pcse.supplies-leeds@nhs.net) alternatively use QR codes below) |  |
| **Give patient opportunity to ask questions and refer patient to Community Pharmacy New Medicines Service -** prescriber to write ‘eligible for New Medicines Service’ in a Pharmacy Message on the DOAC prescription item of the prescription form to encourage additional follow up with Community Pharmacist |  |