

**Coumadin Clinic:**

**Better management of a necessary evil**

## Changing Systems Curriculum

### Goals

1. Learn how to better manage initiation and maintenance of coumadin therapy
2. Learn how a practice-based system can provide an organized approach to care

### Objectives

1. Coumadin
  - a. Describe the pharmacokinetics of coumadin
  - b. Describe indications for coumadin therapy, and the recommended target INR for common conditions
  - c. Recognize common drug interactions with coumadin
  - d. Find and use the coumadin management tools in Essential Evidence
  - e. Demonstrate management of patients on coumadin
    - a. Appropriate monitoring interval
    - b. Dose adjustment
    - c. Management of elevated INR
2. Coumadin clinic
  - a. Describe the process of care in the coumadin clinic, and how this differs from the process for other conditions requiring monitoring, eg, diabetes.
  - b. Describe the roles of the nurse and the physician in the coumadin clinic
  - c. Learn how to use the Anticoagulation Management Tool in EPIC
  - d. Identify advantages and disadvantages of this process of care.

### Readings

1. The pharmacology and management of Vitamin K antagonists: The seventh ACCP conference on antithrombotic and thrombolytic therapy
2. Prevalence and predictors of potential drug-drug interactions in Regione Emilia-Romagna, Italy.
3. Care of patients receiving long-term anticoagulation

### Essential Evidence Tools:

1. Warfarin dose adjustment
2. Warfarin dosing in outpatients
3. Warfarin dose (elderly)
4. Bleeding risk on warfarin
5. Warfarin initial dose (10 mg protocol)

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### Assignments

1. Complete the readings.
2. Find the Essential Evidence Tools (these are clinical decision rules)
  - a. Review the “More Info” tab
  - b. Play with the tools
3. Spend a half-day in Coumadin clinic
  - a. Review the information for each patient (therapeutic range, current coumadin dose, current INR).
  - b. Make a recommendation to the attending about:
    - i. Monitoring interval
    - ii. Change in dose, if any – use the Essential Evidence Tools as a guide.
  - c. Learn how to use the Anticoagulation Management tool in EPIC