

experience bruising or bleeding gums when brushing your teeth.

- **Don't** take more or less than the prescribed amount.
- **Don't** have excessive or irregular alcohol intake.
- **Don't** miss your Blood Test appointment.

Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary
Wigan Lane
Wigan WN1 2NN

Ask 3 Questions



Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our "how we use your information" leaflet which can be found on the Trust website:

www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, braille and other languages upon request.

For more information please ask in department/ward.

© Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of the copyright owner.



Warfarin Treatment for Heart Rhythm Disturbance

Cardiac Catheter Laboratory RAEI

Patient Information

Author ID:	CD
Leaflet Number:	Card 007
Version:	7
Name of Leaflet:	Warfarin Treatment for Heart Rhythm Disturbance
Date Produced:	October 2019
Review Date:	October 2021



Your doctor has diagnosed an irregular rhythm of your heart. This is a common condition occurring in about one in 100 people. On its own it is unlikely to cause a serious problem, but when it exists with certain other conditions, such as high blood pressure or other contributory factors that have an irregular heart rhythm, this may increase the chance of you having a stroke.

There are alternative anticoagulants available as a first line treatment for this heart rhythm disturbance but some patients who have certain types of conditions will need to be prescribed warfarin. Your doctor will discuss the reason why these alternatives have not been used and warfarin is the choice of drug for your treatment.

The likelihood of a stroke is greatly reduced if you are treated with a drug called Warfarin. Without Warfarin the possibility is that in any year, five patients out of every 100 would suffer a stroke. With Warfarin, this is reduced to one in 100.

Warfarin is a lifelong treatment; it will not have any effect on the way you feel. It works by making the blood less able to clot. For this reason it requires careful control so that you do not bleed excessively. However, two out of 100 patients on Warfarin may have bleeding episodes of which a quarter may be fatal. This risk is kept low by regular testing of your blood.

It is therefore very important, if you decide to have the treatment, that

you take your tablets reliably and follow the “Do’s and Don’ts” set out here. You will need to attend for regular blood monitoring at the anticoagulant Clinic. The appointments will be quite frequent at first, but once stabilised; blood tests are needed about every six to eight weeks.

Warfarin is a treatment that has been available for many years and has been used to good effect in many thousands of people.

Do’s and don’ts

- **Do** take your tablets at the same time every day.
- **Do** eat regular meals.
- **Do** check with your Doctor or Pharmacist before taking non-prescription drugs.
- **Do** call your Doctor if you