



Accreditation: ROP of the Week

Required Organizational Practice: Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis

WHAT IS VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM PROPHYLAXIS?

- Medical and surgical patients at risk for venous thromboembolism (deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) are identified and provided with appropriate thromboprophylaxis.
- Evidence shows that identifying patients at risk and providing evidence-based thromboprophylaxis interventions, can substantially reduce or prevent thromboembolism from occurring.
- **Safer Healthcare Now** identifies the following as risk factors for VTE:
 - major surgery, trauma or leg injury, active cancer, acute medical illness, immobilization, bed rest, stroke, previous history of VTE, increasing age, pregnancy, birth control pill, hormone replacement therapy, severe obesity, thrombophilia and central venous catheter.

AT HEALTH PEI:

- Health PEI has a **VTE Prophylaxis order set** and **ORTHO VTE prophylaxis order set** exist in CIS.
- VTE order sets can be ordered on their own and are also a part of 53 other order sets, including: GENSURG Minor Surgery Post op, ICU Ventilation, PAL Palliative Care Admit and Sepsis Management.
- There is a *VTE Prophylaxis – Stroke Patients Policy* available on PDMS/MedWorxx.
- Work is underway to strengthen the approach to VTE Prophylaxis at Health PEI by reviewing/updating guidelines and adopting a standardized risk assessment screening tool.
- Education is provided to patients and families about the risks of VTE and prevention. Information is provided in real time when nursing staff use the sequential compression device, administer an anticoagulant, or assist a patient with ambulation.
- Some Quality Improvement Teams regularly audit and monitor compliance with VTE prophylaxis.

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is the collective term for deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE)

Questions Accreditation Canada Surveyors May Ask Staff:

What medications are used for VTE prophylaxis?

What education is provided to patients and families about the prophylactic blood thinner they are prescribed? What is documented in the patient's health record?