

Care Directive Title:	Management of Anticoagulant and Antiplatelet Therapy in the Colon Cancer Prevention Program	
Applies To:	Registered nurses working in the Colon Cancer Prevention Program	
Approved:	Effective:	Next Review:
March 2, 2022	March 8, 2022	March 2, 2026
Sponsor:	Senior Director, Cancer Care Senior Medical Director, Cancer Care	
Approval Authority:	Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (HAMAC)	
Number: CD-CAN-001	Manual:	Care Directives

PURPOSE

This care directive authorizes Colon Cancer Prevention Program (CCPP) Screening Nurses to instruct patients on the use of their anticoagulants prior to undergoing endoscopy procedures.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. The Screening Nurse must complete a pre-colonoscopy assessment for all patients with a positive Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT).
 - 1.1. If a patient identifies as taking any of the anticoagulant or antiplatelet medications listed in [Appendix A](#) and/or [Appendix B](#), the Screening Nurse advises the patient of the medication schedule modification recommendations detailed in these appendices.
 - 1.2. The Screening Nurse uses their clinical judgment to determine when a referral is needed to a CCPP endoscopist for assessment of fitness for colonoscopy.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

1. Patients taking anticoagulant or antiplatelet medications may require modification to their medication schedule before endoscopy to reduce the risk of bleeding following the procedure.

2. The recommendations for antiplatelet medication schedule modification aim to balance the risk of bleeding following colonoscopy and the risk of clotting if the medication is held.
3. CAPP Screening Nurses provide patients with provincially accepted anticoagulation and antiplatelet medication recommendations pre-colonoscopy, reducing the need for referrals to endoscopy and/or hematology and reducing the wait time for endoscopy for patients taking these medications.

REFERENCES

- BC Cancer. (2020). *BC cancer colon screening pre-post colonoscopy standards*.
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- Thrombosis Canada. (2020). *NOACS/DOACS: Perioperative management*.
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- Thrombosis Canada. (2020) *Warfarin: Perioperative management*.
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RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendices

[Appendix A: Pre- and Post-Procedure Management of Anticoagulants in Patients Undergoing Endoscopy](#)

[Appendix B: Management of Patients Taking Warfarin](#)

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Appendix A: Pre- and Post-Procedure Management of Anticoagulants in Patients Undergoing Endoscopy

Medication	Pre-Procedure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apixaban (Eliquis®) ○ Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) ○ Edoxaban (Lixiana®) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regardless of indication for drug, last dose is two days before the procedure. Example: If procedure is on a Monday, last dose is on Saturday preceding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do NOT take a dose the day before the procedure. ● Do NOT take the drug on the day of the procedure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last dose is three full days before the procedure. Example: If procedure is on a Monday, last dose is on Friday preceding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do NOT take the drug on the day of the procedure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can be continued for patients undergoing therapeutic endoscopy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-ASA anti-platelet medications ○ Clopidogrel (Plavix®) ○ Ticagrelor (Brilinta®) ○ Prasugrel (Effient®) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stop five days prior to FIT-positive colonoscopy or surveillance colonoscopy for FIT-detected lesion(s).
Practice Alert	
<p>Patients who have undergone percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) with placement of drug eluting stents (DES) or bare metal stents (BMS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do NOT stop antiplatelet medications. ○ Consult Endoscopy and Cardiology to determine when these medications should be safely discontinued.

Appendix B: Management of Patients Taking Warfarin

Indication for Taking Warfarin	Management
○ Mechanical valve	○ Refer to hematology/anticoagulant/internal medicine clinic to discuss peri-procedural bridging.
○ Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)/Pulmonary embolism (PEP) diagnosed within the last year	○ Refer to hematology/ anticoagulant/internal medicine clinic to discuss peri-procedural bridging.
○ DVT/PE diagnosed more than one year ago	○ Stop warfarin five days before.
○ Atrial fibrillation	○ Stop warfarin five days before.
○ Atrial fibrillation and a stroke within the last three months	○ Refer to hematology/ anticoagulant/ internal medicine clinic to discuss peri-procedural bridging.

DISTRICT HEALTH AUTHORITY POLICIES BEING REPLACED

N/A

VERSION HISTORY

Version:	Effective:	Approved by:	What's changed:
Original	2022-03-08	HAMAC	N/A