Category: Medication

Preventing: Overdose, Bleeding

Key words: Anticoagulant, Rivaroxaban, PE, DVT

Shared by: Lead Pharmacist, Primary Care

Sharing Learning Points LOCALLY

Nov 2025

What happened?

Since the beginning of 2024 there have been a small number of adverse event reports from across NHS Grampian where patients prescribed Rivaroxaban for deep-vein thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE) have not had their dose reviewed and adjusted after the 21 days.

The BNF states the treatment of DVT and PE is initially 15mg twice daily for 21 days, then maintenance 20mg daily for duration of treatment.

The adverse events reported include instances where patients have:

- continued to be prescribed Rivaroxaban 15mg twice daily after 21 days
- have had Rivaroxaban stopped completely after 21 days in error.

Themes from the reported adverse events include:

- errors documented in Acute on the Core Discharge Document (CDD) have continued in Primary Care
- notes on prescribing systems highlighting to reduce dose after 21 days have not been actioned.

What went well?

- Errors have been picked up and reported via Datix
- Sharing Learning

What, if anything, could we improve?

- Accurate dosing plan documented on CDD.
- Medicines Reconciliation at transitions of care
- Review of medicines doses in hospital.

What have we learnt?

- Medicines reviews should include the review of notes on prescribing charts/systems
- Prescribing errors that occur in acute may continue in Primary Care
- Complete and accurate CDDs are essential for the communication of accurate dosing regimens.
- Medicines reconciliation is key to ensuring patients are prescribed appropriate medicines at an appropriate dose.

If you have any comments about this or any similar adverse event please send them to Lindsay Cameron, Medication Safety Advisor lindsay.cameron2@nhs.scot