

Checklist for Core Elements of Anticoagulation Stewardship Programs

The following checklist supports the *Core Elements of Anticoagulation Stewardship Programs*. This checklist should be used to systematically assess key elements and actions that are integral to successful anticoagulation stewardship efforts and high-quality patient care.

Healthcare organization administrators should work in tandem with healthcare staff knowledgeable in anticoagulation therapy, using this checklist as a guide to determine if essential support, resources, and initiatives are in place for optimal management of patients on anticoagulation medications.

As each healthcare setting is unique, it is recognized that no single anticoagulation stewardship program model will fit all facilities. As such, implementation of checklist elements may need to be customized, based on infrastructure and access to resources.

Scoring: Evaluate your organization's current state and provide a score for each item using the following scale.

- 0** = Not yet addressed
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	Score
1. Secure administrative leadership commitment	
A. Provides visible endorsement of stewardship efforts by incorporating anticoagulation-related priorities into organizational strategic plans or quality improvement action plans, reviews performance annually and holds itself accountable for stewardship goals	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Budgets resources for development and ongoing support of anticoagulation stewardship activities that are appropriately matched to size, function and needs of the organization (e.g. dedicated positions, training, information technology support, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Establish professional accountability and expertise	
A. Identifies a champion to serve as the program leader who is responsible for oversight of anticoagulation stewardship activities and achievement of related goals	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Identifies one or more clinician(s) with advanced training and expertise in anticoagulation management to support the program leader in development, implementation and evaluation of stewardship activities	<input type="checkbox"/>



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3. Engage multidisciplinary support	Score												
<p>A. Identifies representatives from key areas to obtain valuable perspectives from all domains of the care delivery system, such as:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I. Surgical Provider(s)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> V. Quality Improvement</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> IX. Case Management</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> II. Non-Surgical Provider(s)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VI. Laboratory</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> X. Administrative Leadership</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> III. Nursing</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VII. Information Technology</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> XI. Other(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> IV. Pharmacy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VIII. Data Analytics</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> I. Surgical Provider(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> V. Quality Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> IX. Case Management	<input type="checkbox"/> II. Non-Surgical Provider(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> VI. Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> X. Administrative Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> III. Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> VII. Information Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> XI. Other(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> IV. Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/> VIII. Data Analytics	_____	
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<p>B. Establishes a mechanism (e.g. standing committee) to solicit multidisciplinary input on stewardship program development, implementation and performance improvement</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>												
4. Perform data collection, tracking and analysis	Score												
<p>A. Allocates information technology and data analytic resources to develop and implement necessary tools and processes for ongoing evaluation of anticoagulation stewardship activities and performance</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>												
<p>B. Tracks processes and outcomes (including net clinical benefit) to evaluate the safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of anticoagulation-related care, such as:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> I. Adherence to evidence-based clinical guidelines, protocols and/or policies related to anticoagulation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> V. Healthcare staff education on anticoagulant therapies</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> II. Adequate documentation of key anticoagulation information</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VI. Patient/family/caregiver education on anticoagulant therapies</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> III. Quality of anticoagulation management (e.g. TTR, INR >5, etc.)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VII. Safety and effectiveness of care transitions</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> IV. Adverse events (e.g. bleeding, thrombosis, medication errors)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VIII. Other(s)</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> I. Adherence to evidence-based clinical guidelines, protocols and/or policies related to anticoagulation	<input type="checkbox"/> V. Healthcare staff education on anticoagulant therapies	<input type="checkbox"/> II. Adequate documentation of key anticoagulation information	<input type="checkbox"/> VI. Patient/family/caregiver education on anticoagulant therapies	<input type="checkbox"/> III. Quality of anticoagulation management (e.g. TTR, INR >5, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> VII. Safety and effectiveness of care transitions	<input type="checkbox"/> IV. Adverse events (e.g. bleeding, thrombosis, medication errors)	<input type="checkbox"/> VIII. Other(s)					
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<p>C. Evaluates organizational performance of key measures annually to identify opportunities for improvement</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>												
<p>D. Implements a mechanism for feedback to administrators, providers and other healthcare staff as to anticoagulation stewardship performance</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>												

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5. Implement systematic care	Score		
<p>A. Develops and implements an institutional policy that addresses key anticoagulation stewardship aspects, such as structure and function of the program, delineation of roles and responsibilities of those caring for anticoagulation patients and need for baseline and ongoing monitoring</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>B. Develops and implements evidence-based clinical guidelines, protocols, order sets or pathways that address common anticoagulation drugs, disease states or clinical situations, such as:</p>			
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I. Parenteral and oral anticoagulants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> II. Prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> III. Stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IV. Cardiac valves</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> V. Management of bleeding, reversal, and resumption of anticoagulants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> VI. Perioperative management of anticoagulants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> VIII. Other(s) _____</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I. Parenteral and oral anticoagulants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> II. Prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolism</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> III. Stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IV. Cardiac valves</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> V. Management of bleeding, reversal, and resumption of anticoagulants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> VI. Perioperative management of anticoagulants</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> VIII. Other(s) _____</p>	
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<p>C. Implements specific pharmacy-driven interventions, including, but not limited to:</p>			
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6. Facilitate transitions of care	Score		
<p>A. Implements standardized processes to proactively identify new or incoming patients receiving anticoagulant therapy and obtain relevant information to assure safe and effective anticoagulation therapy when care begins in the new setting</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>B. Implements standardized evidence-based processes for periprocedural anticoagulation management</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<p>C. Implements standardized processes to proactively identify current anticoagulant users transitioning to other care settings and communicates bi-directionally to assure that relevant information is shared and acknowledged to support safe and effective anticoagulation therapy when care begins in the subsequent setting</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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7. Advance education, comprehension, and competency	Score
A. Ensures that clinical expert(s) responsible for anticoagulation stewardship achieve and maintain their level of expertise through advanced training	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Establishes processes to ensure patients and caregivers receive and comprehend anticoagulation-related education, especially at each care transition, that is culturally appropriate, in the preferred language, and is presented at an appropriate health literacy level	<input type="checkbox"/>

Checklist items scored as “not yet addressed” or “partially implemented” should be priorities for action, while “fully implemented” program elements should undergo periodic re-evaluation. To support areas needing improvement, high-quality resources from multiple organizations are available through the Anticoagulation Forum’s Centers of Excellence Resource Center (excellence.acforum.org).
