

ANTICOAGULATION STEWARDSHIP: A NATIONAL MOVEMENT

HHS Has Called for Anticoagulation Stewardship Model Advancement

The US Department of Health and Human Services' National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention identified anticoagulants as a drug class warranting systematic improvements to prevent drug-related harm, stating:

“Federal partners should lead efforts to promote the concept of ‘anticoagulation stewardship’ to reduce anticoagulant ADE burden.”¹

Other agencies and organizations have also prioritized anticoagulation safety and quality

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have Identified Anticoagulants as the Most Frequent Contributors to Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalization

Studies by the CDC have shown anticoagulants to be the drug class most frequently associated with adverse drug events causing ED visits and hospitalizations, particularly among the elderly, and many are considered preventable.²⁻⁵

The Food and Drug Administration has Funded the Development of Anticoagulation Stewardship Model

The FDA contracted with the Anticoagulation Forum to develop the Core Elements of Anticoagulation Stewardship Programs Guide.⁶

The Veterans Health Administration has Implemented National Standards for Anticoagulation Management

“It is VHA policy that every VA medical facility must maintain a centralized evidence-based anticoagulation management program. The program must provide coordinated processes and procedures ensuring Veterans are appropriately treated and monitored, to ensure safety of anticoagulation therapy through transitions of care.”^{7,8}

The Joint Commission has Expanded the National Patient Safety Goals for Anticoagulation Management

National Patient Safety Goal 03.05.01 was updated in 2018 to reduce avoidable patient harms related to suboptimal anticoagulant use, including care transitions, peri-procedural management, bleeding management, and other key aspects of patient care.⁹

The National Quality Forum is Developing a Playbook to Guide Stewardship Implementation

NQF has partnered with Anticoagulation Forum to develop a comprehensive guide on implementation of Anticoagulation Stewardship in hospitals.

The Anticoagulation Forum welcomes your support in advancing Anticoagulation Stewardship across care settings.

Acronyms: ADE = adverse drug event; CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; ED = emergency department; HHS = US Department of Health and Human Services; FDA = Food and Drug Administration; VA = Veterans Affairs

To learn more about how you can help advance anticoagulation stewardship visit <https://acforum.org/web/education-stewardship.php>, scan the QR code to the right, or email info@acforum.org.

