Anti-embolic stockings

VTE is a major cause of death and morbidity in hospitalised patients; however, this is potentially preventable (NICE 2010). All in-patients should be assessed to determine their individual risk of VTE and bleeding on admission to hospital.

After assessing the VTE risk, anti-embolic stockings should be prescribed for all surgical patients with a VTE risk factor, and any medical patients that have a bleeding risk and cannot be prescribed Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH).

The patient should be checked for contraindications, which must be documented on the ‘Initial application of anti-embolic stockings’ form, and have their legs measured to ensure correct fit. The ‘Initial application of anti-embolic stockings’ form is available on StaffRoom; http://staffroom.ydh.yha.com/policies-and-procedures/clinical/vte-files-to-be-linked/anti-embolism-stocking-assessment-form

Anti-embolic stockings must be prescribed on the patients drug chart.

The fit of the stockings should be checked daily and signed for on the prescription chart for the duration of the prescription. Skin integrity should be checked at least daily and documented in the patients care plan.

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References