



York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Injectable anticoagulants

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please contact:

York Pharmacy:
Tel: 01904 725736

The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Or

Scarborough Pharmacy:
Tel: 01723 342093

Scarborough Hospital
Woodlands Road, Scarborough, YO12 6QL

yhs-tr.medicines.information@nhs.net

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What is injectable anticoagulant therapy?

This is an injectable form of an anticoagulant that thins your blood. It is used to either prevent or treat blood clots. It may be prescribed during and/or after hospital admission.

Some medicines are of animal origin; if you have any dietary restrictions that forbid certain animal products within your diet, discuss this with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before taking these medicines.

This leaflet provides important information about using your injections.

Why am I on these injections?

You are prescribed these injections to either prevent or treat a blood clot. You may be on this treatment for a long time. It is important that you obtain further supplies of your medication from your GP before your hospital supply runs out. Continue to administer your injections until your doctor tells you to stop or changes you to an oral anticoagulation therapy if this is suitable.

How to use your injections

Information will be given to you on the safe and effective use of your injectable anticoagulant. If you feel unsure about using your injections, refer to the patient information leaflet provided with the injection.

The injections are designed to be administered by the person requiring treatment or a relative. If you are unable to administer the injection yourself, a district nurse should have been arranged for you.

Depending on the dose given there may be an air bubble in the syringe. If you have been advised to inject the full syringe then do NOT expel this bubble.

Storing your injections

Always check the box and information leaflet for any storage information. Normally injectable anticoagulants are kept at room temperature. They should be kept below 25°C in a dry place. They should not be stored in a fridge.

Keep your injections out of sight and reach of children.

How to dispose of your injections safely after use

It is important that the syringe and needle is disposed of safely. You must never throw a used injection directly into the waste bin either at home or in public, in case the needle pricks someone when they are emptying the bin.

On discharge from hospital, you should have been given a yellow container called a sharps bin to dispose of your used needles and syringes.

If a district nurse is administering the injections for you, they will safely dispose of the used needle and syringe.

Alternatively, your GP can prescribe a sharps bin for you. Not all GP practices will accept the sharps bin back to dispose of. Ask your GP surgery about their policy.

Never put your hand inside the sharps bin to try and get something out.

Keep the sharps bin out of sight and reach of children. Only fill the sharps bin to the line indicated by the manufacturer.

Your local council will offer a medical waste collection service. Register online at the respective website or ring the councils directly to arrange this service.

Useful telephone numbers and websites

York Hospital Pharmacy

Tel. 01904 725736

Scarborough Hospital Pharmacy

Tel. 01723 342448

yhs-tr.medicines.information@nhs.net

Or alternatively go online for more information at:

NHS Direct: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Department of Health: www.dh.gov.uk

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk

Anticoagulation Europe: www.anticoagulationeurope.org

Hospital Patient Information Leaflets:

www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

Anisah Ahmad, Pharmacist, The York Hospital
Pharmacy Department, The York Hospital, Wigginton
Road, York, YO31 8HE or telephone 01904 725736.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.PatientExperienceTeam@nhs.net

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website:

www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

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