

DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) Pathway 'Q&As' for GPs and practice staff

Before the start of the new pathway on 11 February 2013, we have tried to anticipate some of the questions you may have about the new pathway.

This is intended as a live document and will be available on the CCG intranet site. As more questions are raised they will be up-dated frequently on the website.

1. How do I get the D-dimer test strips?

The CCG has ordered these in bulk. Each surgery will be given a supply to start with. This will be a pack of 10 D dimer tests. Further supplies are available through the CCG office. The contact point will be Alison Yeadon on alison.yeadon@nyypct.nhs.uk.

2. The D-dimer test is positive and Wells score is 2 or more, the USS is negative but fails to mention calf veins, what should I do?

Either request a consultant review of the images to ensure a negative test or request a repeat scan in 7 days.

3. Do patients on Rivaroxaban need to carry alert cards?

Yes, they should be given out when the medication is started. The routine yellow packs used for warfarin are acceptable or specific ones for rivaroxaban can be used. These are available from the pharmaceutical rep for Bayer. Please contact Neil Brown through his e-mail address: neil.brown@bayer.com.

4. How do I get starter packs?

These may be available through the pharmaceutical rep (details above) subject to company policy.

5. What do I do if a patient presents to the practice on a Friday afternoon?

Follow the pathway and anti-coagulate if indicated. Refer for a scan for the next working day, i.e. Monday morning.

6. A patient has presented to at the out-of-hours service, should I still follow the pathway?

We would like to extend the pathway to Out-of-Hours once it is working successfully in practices. GPs who work in out-of-hours should await further information, but for now there is no change to the pathway during the OOH period.

7. If the Wells score is 2 or more I will start anti-coagulation anyway, so what is the point of undertaking a D dimer test?

This is following NICE guidance. It is to reduce the risk of missing a calf vein DVT. See Q 2 above.

8. How do I contact the CCG if I have problems or queries about the new pathway?

The lead GP for the pathway is Charles Parker and his e-mail address is Charles.Parker@gp-B82019.nhs.uk. However, as Charles is not always available, if your query is urgent you should also copy the question to nyy-pct.HRWCCGenquiries@nhs.net