

Are you taking **warfarin**?

Are you being treated for a bacterial, viral, or other infection?

Do you know that the medicines used to treat these infections (antimicrobials) can sometimes have bad interactions with warfarin? This can include serious bleeding events or blood clots.

Antimicrobials = antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, and other anti-infectives

(If you are unsure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.)

Things to Know & Questions to Ask

- Make sure ALL of your doctors are aware of ALL of your medications.
- If an antimicrobial is prescribed, be sure that the doctor who prescribes your warfarin knows about it.
- A follow-up INR* should be scheduled within 3–7 days of starting an antimicrobial.
- Another INR should be scheduled 7–28 days after finishing your antimicrobial (specific date should be determined by doctor or pharmacist).



Symptoms of Serious Bleeding

- Vomiting blood (red/coffee ground vomit).
- Blood in urine (orange/red color).
- Blood in stool (red/black, tarry stools).
- Increased bruising.
- Excessive bleeding of the gums.

Symptoms of a Clot

- Stroke (confusion, weakness, loss of vision, slurred speech, droop in face, numbness usually on one side).
- Heart attack (chest pain, shortness of breath, pain in one or both arms, nausea, heartburn, sudden dizziness).
- In legs and arms (swelling, pain or tenderness not caused by an injury, skin that is warm to the touch, redness or discoloration of the skin).
- In lungs (difficulty breathing, chest pain that worsens with a deep breath, coughing or coughing up blood, a faster than normal or irregular heartbeat).

*INR = International Normalized Ratio – a measurement of how well your warfarin is working.

If you are having a severe or life-threatening reaction such as bleeding that does not stop, breathing problems, chest pain, confusion, or fainting CALL 911.

This material was prepared by the Atlantic Quality Innovation Network (AQIN), the Medicare Quality Innovation Network - Quality Improvement Organization for New York State, South Carolina, and the District of Columbia, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 11SOW-AQIN3-TskC.3-17-12