## **PATIENT SAFETY**

# Anticoagulant Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)



#### **Definitions:**

**CDC:** An adverse drug event (ADE) is when someone is harmed by a medicine.<sup>1</sup>

CMS: An injury resulting from drug-related medical interventions.<sup>2</sup>

### **Quick Facts:**

- It is generally estimated that about half of ADEs are preventable.<sup>3</sup>
- Antidiabetic meds, anticoagulants/antiplatelet meds and opioids account for more than 50% of ED visits for ADEs in Medicare patients.<sup>3</sup>
- Each year, ADEs account for nearly 700,000 ED visits and 100,000 hospitalizations.<sup>3</sup>

## Common Effects of Anticoagulant ADEs<sup>2</sup>:



Abrupt Onset Hypotension (Low Blood Pressure)



Blood in Urine, Feces, or Vomit



Low Platelet Count, Elevated PT (Prothrombin Time)/INR (International Normlized Ratio), PTT (Partial Thromboplastin Time)



Pain or Tenderness and Swelling of Upper or Lower Extremity, Increased Armth, Edema and/or Erythema of Affected Extremity



Bruising, Nosebleeds, Bleeding Gums, Prolonged Bleeding from Wound, IV, or Surgical Sites



Feelings of Anxiety or Dread



- Stat order for PT/INR, PTT, platelet count, or CBC (complete blood count)
- Abrupt stop order for medication
- Administration of Vitamin K
- Stat chest x-ray
- Stat scan for DVT (deep vein thrombosis)
- Transfer to hospital
- Removal of a medication
- Addition of a medication



Unexplained Shortness of Breath, Chest Pain, Coughing, Coughing Up Blood, Hemoptysis (Expectoration of Blood from Some Part of the Respiratory Tract<sup>4</sup>)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/adult\_adversedrugevents.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/QAPI/Downloads/Adverse-Drug-Event-Trigger-Tool.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/medication-errors-and-adverse-drug-events

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hemoptysis#medicalDictionary