



Cheshire and Merseyside

NHS Cheshire and Mersey (C&M) Statement:

Use of Direct-Acting Oral Anticoagulants in Atrial Fibrillation

Direct-acting oral anticoagulant (DOAC) medicine optimisation (MO) reviews that have been implemented over the past 2 years have had a positive impact on patient safety and quality of prescribing. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the DOAC MO reviews conducted within one of our nine places in C&M, numerically, patients had less admissions to hospital for bleeding or clots, although numbers were small and therefore statistical significance was not demonstrated.

NHSE (2024) commissioning guidance advised that the DOAC with the highest best value is generic apixaban. Edoxaban is the second-best value if patients have a requirement for a once daily preparation. A national rebate for Edoxaban remains available during 2024/25. C&M have and will continue to benefit from the national Edoxaban rebate.

NHS Cheshire and Mersey ICB recommend that the routine DOAC MO reviews should continue to be undertaken. It is not recommended to actively switch patients who are on edoxaban to generic apixaban unless there is a clinical indication to do so. It is expected that a growth in the use of apixaban will be seen across secondary and primary care as a result of the updated national commissioning guidance.

Work will be undertaken to prioritise quality DOAC MO reviews for patients on rivaroxaban and where clinically appropriate changed to generic apixaban. If there is a requirement for once daily dosing, then patients should be changed to edoxaban.