







## WARFARIN — LOADING

Measure INR on admission or commencement of therapy. This is the first of the daily INR readings. At 18:00 (6 pm) give warfarin as for first day INR reading (see chart below). Measure INR next morning (this is the second day INR). Measure INR on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day and follow chart.

**In the elderly**, consider loading 5–5–? rather than 10–10–? (this chart is then not valid).

### Warfarin schedule

Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 3	
INR (8–11 am)	Warfarin dose (5–7 pm)	INR (8–11 am)	Warfarin dose (5–7 pm)	INR (8–11 am)	Warfarin dose (5–7 pm)	INR (8–11 am)	Predicted maintenance dose
<1.4	10 mg	<1.8	10 mg	<2.0	10 mg	<1.4	>8 mg
		1.8	1 mg	2.0 – 2.1	5 mg	1.4	8 mg
		>1.8	0.5 mg	2.2 – 2.3	4.5 mg	1.5	7.5 mg
				2.4 – 2.5	4 mg	1.6 – 1.7	7 mg
				2.6 – 2.7	3.5 mg	1.8	6.5 mg
				2.8 – 2.9	3 mg	1.9	6 mg
				3.0 – 3.1	2.5 mg	2.0 – 2.1	5.5 mg
				3.2 – 3.3	2 mg	2.2 – 2.3	5 mg
				3.4	1.5 mg	2.4 – 2.6	4.5 mg
				3.5	1 mg	2.7 – 3.0	4 mg
				3.6 – 4.0	0.5 mg	3.1 – 3.5	3.5 mg
				>4.0	0	3.6 – 4.0	3 mg
						4.1 – 4.5	Miss out next day's dose then give 2 mg
						>4.5	Miss out 2 days' doses then give 1 mg

### Warfarin dose — LOADING ONLY

(for maintenance see front page)

Day	Date	INR ordered	INR result	Warfarin dose (mg)	Doctor prescribed	Nurse signed	Nurse signed
1st							
2nd							
3rd							
4th							

The warfarin schedule is only valid for the first 4 days, then continue at the doctor's discretion.

After 4 days, loading is complete; please record warfarin dosing after 4th day on the *Maintenance* chart on the front page of this chart.

Once a patient is established on warfarin, a daily INR is not needed.