



Warfarin Management Information - COVID-19

During the Covid-19 pandemic we want to keep warfarin testing (INR) as safe as possible. The following information is to help you maintain safe testing.

If a patient attends your facility with symptoms; fever, sore throat, cough or difficulty breathing, they should NOT be referred to Pathlab community collection centres.

Longer testing Intervals

Many of your patients are elderly and we do not want them to come to the collection room more frequently than necessary. For some patients it may be appropriate to extend the testing interval to 3 months, if they have stable control and have been on the same dose of warfarin for 2 to 3 months. It would be sensible to review your patients to see if you have any tests you can delay.

Safe venepuncture

Follow usual practice, with consideration of MoH guidelines.

Will warfarin control be affected by the virus infection?

At this stage we are not sure how much the INR result is affected by the infection. However most viral infections can have some effect, usually giving a higher INR reading. Patients with severe COVID-19 infection could develop serious clotting problems in which case warfarin will need to be stopped by the prescriber/hospital.

If you are asked to test a COVID-19 symptomatic patient, advise them to contact Healthline on 0800 358 5453 in the first instance. They will direct the patient accordingly as to where to go for a blood test. Do not invite a patient with symptoms to your facility.

Remember that regularly washing your hands and staying away from other people is the best way to keep safe.

As you are aware to obtain stable INR / warfarin management, please ensure the patient maintains a stable diet, drugs and lifestyle.

With any signs or symptoms of bleeding, patients must contact their doctors ASAP.

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CLINICAL UPDATE

**Please ensure all members of your institution
receive a copy of this clinical update.**