

# Use of a single anticoagulant patient safety card across South London

- All patients prescribed an oral anticoagulant require a patient safety card (also known as an alert card) which provides appropriate details of their treatment. Currently there are multiple versions in use:
  - A National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) Anticoagulant Alert Card is given to all patients prescribed Vitamin K Antagonists (VKAs), while
  - Patients on Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) receive an alert card produced by individual manufacturers. The variability and change of their design can pose a risk to patients and healthcare professionals may not always recognise a patient is on an oral anticoagulant.
- To ensure all healthcare professionals (HCP) across primary and secondary care can identify patients taking an oral anticoagulant, a standardised approach across London has been taken by implementing the use of a **single patient safety card for all oral anticoagulants (VKA or DOAC)**.
- The alert card should be filled in and given to the patient as part of the written information provided at the start of their treatment and informed to carry it with them at all times. HCPs should take every opportunity to check and ensure a patient is carrying an anticoagulant alert card throughout the course of their treatment. This may include: at hospital discharge, clinic follow up, General Practitioner appointment, medicine reviews and/ or getting their anticoagulant dispensed from the community pharmacy.

## Information for healthcare professionals on standardising the use of a single oral anticoagulant safety card across London

- The existing **NPSA Anticoagulant Alert Card** is a recognised tool and should be **used for all** patients prescribed an **oral anticoagulant (VKA or DOAC)** in London.
- It is the size of a credit card and can easily be carried by the patient. It provides patient details and information of their anticoagulant treatment (including: the anticoagulant prescribed, its indication, duration and contact details of their anticoagulant service or prescriber).
- If a patient is prescribed a VKA, then the therapeutic range for International Normalised Ratio (INR) details must be completed accordingly. If a patient is prescribed a DOAC, this section should state “**Not required for this drug**”, as an INR is not needed for DOACs.
- A single pack containing 50 anticoagulant alert cards can be ordered using the NHS Order Portal from Xerox (UK) Ltd with the order code 'OATALERTCARD'. For organisations not registered with Xerox (UK) Ltd, visit [www.nhsforms.co.uk](http://www.nhsforms.co.uk) website where the appropriate registration form is available for completion. Alternatively contact their help desk number on 0300 123 0849 for further information. The cost of a single pack containing 50 anticoagulant alert cards is £1.03 (excluding VAT, July 2016).

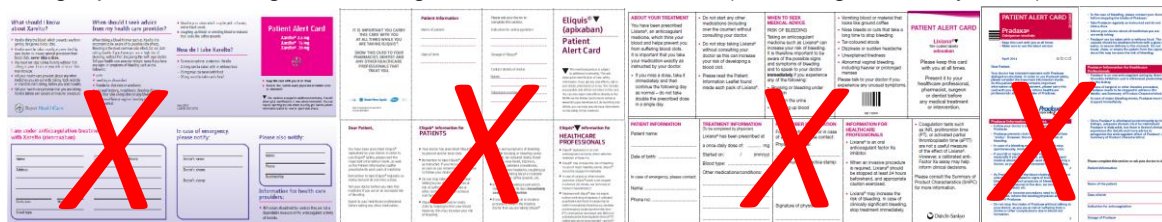
**Anticoagulant Alert Card**

This patient is taking anticoagulant therapy  
This card should be carried at all times and shown to healthcare professionals

Name of patient: A N Other  
Address: 1 A Street, South London  
Postcode: SE1 2AB Telephone: 07123 456 789  
Name of next of kin: B C Other Tel: 07987 654 321  
Hospital number: 100100 NHS Number:

**Details of anticoagulant therapy:**

Name of anticoagulant: Rivaroxaban 20mg daily  
Indication for treatment: Atrial Fibrillation  
Therapeutic range (INR): Not required for this drug  
Treatment started: 09/06/2016 Duration of treatment: Indefinite  
Name and address of anticoagulant clinic: Name of Prescriber or organisation  
Telephone number of clinic: Contact details of the above



**USE NPSA ANTICOAGULANT ALERT CARD FOR ALL ORAL ANTICOAGULANTS (VKA or DOAC)**