

DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis) Pathway

Information for Reception and Dispensary Staff

Overview of pathway

This is a local way of treating patients with a suspected DVT, avoiding the need for them to be admitted to hospital. The patient will be assessed by your GPs. If they are considered to be at-risk, your GPs will start them on anti-coagulation medication. An ultrasound scan to confirm their diagnosis will be arranged urgently by a direct request to radiology. Patients will then return to the practice to get the result of their scan from their doctor on the next working day after they were first seen.

Your GPs will have a separate document summarising the full clinical pathway, a patient information leaflet to be customised with the practice address, and a set of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

Should there be any problems or questions regarding this new pathway please report them to the CCG (HRWCCG.HRWCCGenquiries@nhs.net) and / or direct to Charles Parker (Charles.Parker@nhs.net).

Actions for Reception

- Please give the patient a follow-up appointment for 24 hours later as the result should be available by this time.
- Scans should be done either the same day or next working day, so the patients should expect to hear about their appointment from radiology within 4 working hours. Patients will be told by their GP to contact the practice if they haven't heard from radiology within this time.
- If radiology cannot reach the patient, they may provide the details of the appointment to the practice to give to the patient.
- Alternatively, if the patient contacts the practice and the scan appointment details are not known, then reception should contact the radiology department on the patient's behalf.

Actions for Dispensary

- The patient should be given a DOAC for immediate commencement. This should be taken twice a day until the DVT is confirmed.
- All patients who are thought likely to have a DVT will start treatment before their scan. If the scan is clear they can stop the medication.
- The most important thing is the patients are issued with an ALERT CARD as this medication is similar to warfarin in its actions. Patients can either use the normal warfarin card or alternative sponsored card