



NHSGGC Medicines Information MEMORANDUM

To: All GGC Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy Staff

From: GGC Medicines Information Service

Date: 12th December 2018

Subject: New resource: Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) Patient Information Booklet and Alert Card

****UPDATE: printed copies now available in Acute Services and Primary Care****

A DOAC Patient Information Booklet and Alert Card have been developed for use across NHSGGC.

This new resource is suitable for patients taking apixaban, dabigatran, edoxaban or rivaroxaban and is expected to help healthcare professionals to highlight key points about DOAC treatment to patients and/or carers. The booklet includes information tailored to patients and carers on:

- What a DOAC is
- How to take their DOAC treatment and how to manage missed doses
- Common side effects
- Letting other people know (inc. healthcare professionals, carers and family)
- Things that may affect the clinical effect of DOACs
- Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Printed booklets/alert cards are now available from hospital pharmacy dispensaries and Primary Care Distribution Centres across NHSGGC. The alert card comes attached to the booklet so they should be ordered as a unit. A printable electronic version is also available at <http://www.ggcmedicines.org.uk/DOACS/> in addition to a link to an anonymous [feedback survey](#) for patients and healthcare professionals.

For Acute Services:

- Local teams are asked to decide on the most appropriate method of dissemination to patients at the point of discharge.
- Relevant outpatient clinics and wards can order printed copies from local pharmacy departments on an indent.
- Clinical teams are asked to refer patients to the electronic version of the booklet as appropriate.
- Clinical teams are asked to promote the use of the feedback survey.

For GP Surgeries and Community Pharmacies:

- GP surgeries and community pharmacies should ensure they have copies to hand by placing an order (max of 10 units per order) with their local Primary Care Distribution Centre using the standard order form.
- Only issue a booklet/alert card if the patient has not received a copy from another source.
- Consider referring patients to the electronic version of the booklet as appropriate.
- The use of the feedback survey should be promoted amongst patients and healthcare professionals.