

## Medication Safety: Switching Between Anticoagulants

The [Pharmaceutical Journal](#) has published an article highlighting concerns around potential medication safety incidents related to switching between anticoagulants following recent NHS England incentives. The article reveals incidents where patients are being switched to edoxaban without adequate counselling or without being involved in the decision-making process, or being switched when not clinically appropriate to do so; some patients have been taking two anticoagulants due to confusion and lack of understanding regarding the switch.

A reminder that The Coventry and Warwickshire Area Prescribing Committee (C&W APC) have produced a Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) Prescribing Advice Sheet ([RD045](#)), which offers support with prescribing these agents in primary care. The document also provides guidance on suitability and monitoring. The information should be used in conjunction with relevant Summaries of Product Characteristics (SPCs), and locally approved guidance on the [C&W APC Net Formulary](#).

## C&W APC Net Formulary Updates

A reminder that updates to the C&W APC Net Formulary can be found [here](#). The formulary also includes latest news, price concessions, useful local guidance and medicines safety updates.

The [C&W APC Net Formulary](#) has been updated to include a further two licensed indications for [Denosumab](#) (Prolia®). Denosumab is now Specialist Advised (SA) for the prevention of osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women, and men at increased risk of fractures, and for the treatment of bone loss associated with long-term systemic glucocorticoid therapy in adults aged 18 years and over. The associated [Drug Checklist](#) has been updated to reflect these changes and requires all specialist teams who are recommending use of denosumab to complete before prescribing. The checklist also includes a section for the GP and the drug administrator (nurse or practitioner) to action and document.

Other recent updates to the formulary include: addition of [dapagliflozin tablets](#), [empagliflozin tablets](#), [ivabradine](#).

## NICE guideline [NG226]: Osteoarthritis in over 16s: diagnosis and management

NICE have published (October 2022) new guidance which covers the diagnosis, assessment and non-surgical management of osteoarthritis. It aims to improve management of osteoarthritis and the quality of life for people with osteoarthritis. Full guidance and a useful visual summary can be found [here](#).

Key recommendations from the guidelines include:

- Diagnosed should be made clinically and usually does not need imaging to confirm.
- Management of osteoarthritis is guided by patient symptoms and physical function.
- Core treatments are non-pharmacological:
  - Therapeutic exercise sessions
  - Weight management
  - Information and support.
- If needed, pharmacological treatment options maybe used alongside non-pharmacological treatments and to support therapeutic exercise; the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time should be used.

### Contact Medicines Optimisation:



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