

Core Elements of Anticoagulation Stewardship Program

Performer: Anticoagulation Forum, Inc.

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Regulatory Science Challenge

Anticoagulants have been consistently identified as one of the most common causes of serious adverse drug events (ADEs) across acute, ambulatory, and long-term care settings, while improvement in anticoagulant management across healthcare settings has been identified as a public health priority by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention.¹ Because stewardship models developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have elevated national awareness and led to improvements in antibiotic-related quality and safety, the Anticoagulation Forum will develop and disseminate the Core Elements of Anticoagulation Stewardship Guide to drive national improvements in anticoagulation quality and safety across care settings.

Project Description

The Core Elements of the Anticoagulation Stewardship Program will develop a high-profile guide to increase awareness of deficiencies in the quality and safety of anticoagulation management. Similar to programs on Antibiotic Stewardship, Anticoagulation Stewardship can be applied across care settings. It is not specific to one class of anticoagulants or to a particular group of patients. It will also provide a Self-Assessment Tool to evaluate organizational status and progress towards stewardship goals. Finally, it will identify and prioritize gaps in current regulations, accreditation standards, quality measures, value-based payment models, and treatment guidelines, and provide recommendations from subject matter experts to guide future enhancements.

Project Goals

The collaborative effort will produce and disseminate three high-priority deliverables:

- A Core Elements of Anticoagulation Stewardship Guide, including expert guidance to improve care, and the collection of existing, high-quality tools and resources.
- A Self-Assessment Tool to allow institutional leadership teams to evaluate and shape progress toward stewardship goals.

¹ *National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention*. 2014, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion: Washington, DC.

- An Administrative Oversight Gap Report to identify opportunities for advancing anticoagulation stewardship through optimal alignment of government regulations, incentive programs, accreditation standards and quality measures.

Project Results

The final report from the researchers to the FDA included the following results:

- The Core Elements Guide, Self-Assessment Tool, and Gap Report have been completed.
 - The Guide discusses eight (8) core elements, including “multidisciplinary support” and “data collection, tracking, and analysis.”
 - The Self-Assessment Tool provides a checklist for an organization to evaluate their current status and to measure their progress toward a comprehensive stewardship program.
 - The Gap Report was generated by examining a variety of standards and quality measures. Potential gaps were identified in areas such as “Care Transitions” and “Periprocedural Management.”
- Efforts are underway to disseminate the information to organizations involved in the care of anticoagulated patients.
- The Stewardship Guide can be downloaded here: <https://acforum.org/web/education-stewardship.php>