

**PLAN OF NURSING SERVICE**  
**MANAGEMENT OF A CONSUMER ON COUMADIN (WARFARIN) THERAPY**

Consumer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Administer Coumadin the same time every day. As the dosage may change, check the doctor's order EACH TIME the medication is administered.
2. Do NOT start any new medication, or administer ANY standing order or over-the-counter medication without first calling the RN on-call.
3. Follow the diet ordered by the doctor/dietitian. Notify the dietitian or the RN if the consumer does not eat the prescribed diet, including the amounts indicated. Do not substitute items on the diet without permission.
4. Observe daily for signs of bleeding. Call the RN on call if you see any of the following signs or symptoms:
  - ✓ bleeding gums more than usual after brushing teeth
  - ✓ any bruise, especially on the arms or legs
  - ✓ pinpoint size purple spots on skin
  - ✓ dizziness or weakness
  - ✓ bleeding from a cut that does not stop
  - ✓ nosebleed
  - ✓ black stool
  - ✓ dark brown, red or pink urine
  - ✓ throwing up or coughing up blood
  - ✓ throwing up what looks like coffee grounds
  - ✓ heavier than usual menses (obviously this one will be removed if the consumer is a male)
5. Observe or signs and symptoms of possible blood clots. Call the RN on call immediately if you see any of the following signs or symptoms:
  - ✓ sharp chest pain
  - ✓ heart rate over \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - ✓ fever over \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ sudden pain, swelling and/or a slight blue coloration of an arm or leg
  - ✓ an arm or leg that feels warm, is red and/or hard
  - ✓ visual disturbances
  - ✓ weakness (particularly on one side)
  - ✓ seizure in a person who does not have a seizure disorder
  - ✓ more difficulty speaking than usual (if verbal)
  - ✓ abdominal pain
  - ✓ vomiting and/or diarrhea
  - ✓ unexplained change in behavior

5. Follow up is essential for proper care:

- ✓ Ensure lab and doctor appointments are kept
- ✓ Do not cancel a lab or doctor appointment without permission.
- ✓

6. To help prevent problems:

- ✓ Provide a soft tooth brush & electric razor
- ✓ Teach \_\_\_\_\_ about this drug
- ✓ Ensure that \_\_\_\_\_ wears a Medic Alert bracelet and carries a Medic Alert Card that identifies him/her as taking Coumadin.
- ✓ Report any injury or fall immediately to the RN on call.

**IF ANY EVENT OCCURS THAT CAUSES CONCERN FOR THE CONSUMER'S WELL-BEING  
IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE RN!!**

**IF ANY EVENT OCCURS THAT MAY REPRESENT A THREAT TO THE CONSUMER'S  
HEALTH/WELL-BEING, ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BY  
CALLING \_\_\_\_\_**