

Welcome to the SHA _____ Anticoagulation Management Service (AMS).

- You have been referred to this program for dosing and monitoring of warfarin, an anticoagulant, which helps to slow clotting to prevent or treat harmful blood clots.

What is the Anticoagulation Management Service (AMS)?

- This service is staffed by SHA pharmacists with specific knowledge in anticoagulation therapy.
- Information about warfarin and your anticoagulation therapy is provided during the initial visit.
- Understanding the treatment helps you be more successful, reduce the chance of problems, and lead a more normal lifestyle while on this medication.
- After your initial visit, you are contacted regularly to provide INR results, to ask questions and based on that information provide instructions on warfarin dosing and next blood test.
- AMS manages your anticoagulation therapy until your warfarin dose and INR have stabilized in the desired INR range. It can take approximately 3 to 6 months to stabilize your INR, at which point you may be referred back to your primary care provider for warfarin management if continued anticoagulation management is required.

What is your responsibility?

- Follow instructions provided by the AMS pharmacists.
- You are asked to sign the [Health Information Consent to Release - Anticoagulation Management Service \(AMS\) \[SHA 0524\]](#) form to ensure safe and effective management of your anticoagulation therapy.
- Continue to see your primary care provider for other medical concerns. AMS can only help with your anticoagulation. If you do not have a family doctor, you must find one as soon as possible.

When to contact AMS staff?

- If you are unable to keep your appointment or visit the lab for blood tests.
- If you have any travel plans, let us know well in advance to arrange laboratory work for you if required.
- If you feel unwell (changes in your general health, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, etc.).
- If you are admitted to hospital, or visit the Emergency Department for any reason.
- If you have any changes to your medications (starting, stopping, dose change) including prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbals.
- If you have any changes in lifestyle such as diet or activity .
- If you have a procedure coming up.
 - ⇒ All of your doctors and caregivers need to know you are taking warfarin in case you need to undergo a surgical or dental procedure that may increase your risk of bleeding.
 - ⇒ The AMS staff may need to adjust your warfarin depending on the procedure.
- If you have not heard from us 24 hours after having your blood test (INR) done. Continue on the same dosage of warfarin unless directed otherwise.

How to contact us:

- If you have any questions or concerns, please call the AMS pharmacist at _____.
- Hours: Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays: _____ a.m. to _____ p.m.
- For serious medical problems after regular hours, call your healthcare provider, or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

