

Anticoagulation Choice (Direct Oral Anticoagulants- DOACs) For Patients with Atrial Fibrillation (AF) In South East London (SEL) - Prescribing Update

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Background

Generic versions of apixaban have been launched- a DOAC licensed for:

- Prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adult patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAf), with one of more risk factors
- Treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE) and prevention of recurrent DVT and PE in adults

There is uncertainty concerning the availability of generic supplies of apixaban in the UK. Further communication from NHSE will be shared once published- until then:

Primary Actions For Providers

1. **Do NOT switch patients** who are currently stable, adhering to and tolerating existing DOAC therapy. Switch patients only if there is a clinical/safety need*
2. **Prescribe all DOACs generically** and not by brand
3. **During DOAC initiation for AF, consider the most appropriate anticoagulant for your patient.** Currently the most cost-effective options in the AF indication are apixaban (twice daily dose) or edoxaban (once daily dose)

Secondary Action For Providers

Continue to **regularly monitor** patients prescribed DOACs at a practice level and amend dosing as indicated* (discuss dosing/options with the patient's thrombosis specialist for DVT/PE indication before amending anticoagulation therapy).

*For further information please refer to SEL IMOC guidance (*currently under revision*): [SEL IMOC - Cardiovascular disease guidance - NHS South East London \(selondonics.org\)](#) or contact your local anticoagulation service.

Acknowledgements:

This communication has been developed by the SEL acute trust anticoagulation specialist pharmacists and cardiovascular lead pharmacists in the SEL medicines optimisation team.

