



Seniors living healthy.

PHV Anticoagulant Clinic

Physicians Home Visits would like to make our patients, families and caregivers aware of a special service we provide, our Anticoagulation Clinic (also known as our Coumadin Clinic). This service allows us to give additional attention to our patients who are on long-term anticoagulation, or blood thinners, as they are popularly known. Specialized staff members, along with Dr. Tripp, run this service in order to provide extra safety and close monitoring of our patients on warfarin.

What is an anticoagulation clinic?

The Anticoagulation Clinic is a service established to monitor and manage the medication(s) that patients take to prevent blood clots. It is a specified network within our medical office that is staffed by nurses and a physician who check patients' blood tests and appropriately adjust the dose of warfarin (Coumadin® or Jantoven®) as well as other medi-

cines that may be needed (such as heparin shots or Vitamin K, the antidote to Coumadin).



Why is a special clinic needed to manage these medicines?

Warfarin can be a dangerous medicine if not closely monitored. While on warfarin, a patient's blood clotting time or INR must be checked at least once a month (but more often when first starting this medicine), when changes are made to your other medications, or if your INR results are not within the therapeutic range. It has been proven that these specialized clinics do a much better job of managing these medications than offices which do not provide this service. Patients managed in this manner are more likely to have therapeutic levels of their anticoagulation and much less likely to have compli-

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cations from overdosing or under dosing their warfarin. And because this is such a specialized service it is generally not provided at the patient's monthly visit, although the lab work may be drawn during a routine visit.

How does it work?

Once a patient is on one of these blood thinners, they are enrolled in our anticoagulation clinic. Laboratory work is performed under the above guidelines, and when the results are available one of our licensed nurses contacts the patient or their caregiver to relay information including dosage changes, as appropriate, as well as plans for the next lab draw. In addition, if there has been an unexpected change in the INR, the nurse may ask questions to gather information about what may have caused the changes, such as alterations in medications, diet, over the counter preparations or other conditions known to affect these lab values.

What if a patient is on a different type of blood thinner?

Other medications that are used to prevent excessive blood clotting include aspirin, clopidogrel (Plavix), heparin (Lovenox) and now dabigatran (Pradaxa). In general there are no laboratory tests that allow us to monitor these medications and therefore they are not managed by our Anticoagulation Clinic, unless in very specialized situations where they are being used in conjunction with warfarin.



Patients managed in this manner are more likely to have therapeutic levels of their anticoagulation and much less likely to have complications from overdosing or under dosing their warfarin.

Meet the PHV Anticoagulant Clinic Team



The Anticoagulant Clinic is managed by Dr. Henry Tripp with the assistance of Physicians Home Visits' triage nurses, Diane Hold, LPN, and Tasha Giles, LPN. These professionals closely monitor the effectiveness of the anticoagulant medication to maintain a therapeutic level. This is done by evaluating INR (blood clotting time tests) and other current medications that can impact the effectiveness of the anticoagulant medication.

Comprehensive, quality healthcare.

More than just a line on our logo, it is what we strive for.

Physicians Home Visits strives daily to provide comprehensive, quality healthcare centered upon the patient as a whole person. As we work to prevent illnesses, promote wellness, provide acute care and manage chronic illnesses for our patients, we keep in mind these core values in our interactions with patients, their families and our colleagues:

Respect

Treating everyone with dignity and appreciation for their uniqueness.

Integrity

Consistency demonstrating character and maintaining trustworthiness and reliability.

Caring

Compassion for our patients, families and communities assuring their well-being is primary.

Honesty

Ethical in all of our processes and relationships.

Quality

Excellence is our standard, not our goal.

Teamwork

Achieving goals by working together in a supportive environment.



Contact Us

We would like to hear from you!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.

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Physicians Home Visits is a team of Board Certified Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, nurses and clinical assistants providing primary care for seniors throughout the Piedmont region of North Carolina. We provide comprehensive healthcare centered upon the patient as a whole person. We want to prevent illnesses, promote wellness, provide acute care and manage chronic illnesses, ensuring the patient and caregivers are fully informed in their care plan. In all cases, we use evidence-based medicine and clinical support tools to guide the decisions the patient and family must make.



Coming home to you.

Physicians Home Visits

Office hours Monday—Friday, 9am—5pm

After hours on call

336-993-3146

www.myhomevisits.com