

# **Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System (FMOLHS)**

## **Pharmacy Anticoagulation Stewardship**

### **Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) Patient Education Handout**

#### **Indication for Use**

Rivaroxaban is a blood thinner medication that helps reduce formation of blood clots inside your blood vessels.

#### **What is it used for**

- To prevent stroke
- To prevent blood clots caused by an irregular heart beat
- To prevent or treat blood clots in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT)
- To prevent blood clots after hip or knee replacement surgery
- To prevent or treat blood clots in the artery that supplies blood to the lungs (pulmonary embolism or PE)

#### **You will be discharged on this medication with one of the following dosing schedules**

Rivaroxaban 2.5 mg every 12 hours

Rivaroxaban 10 mg daily

Rivaroxaban 15 mg every 12 hours for 21 days

Rivaroxaban 20 mg daily

#### **Administration**

Take each dose of your medication at the same time of the day each day. Take with food (dinner). To help you remember to take your medication daily, you can do any of the following

- Put a reminder note by the refrigerator, phone or medicine cabinet. You can use different colors to make it stand out
- Keep a chart or calendar of when you take your medicine. You can use colored pens to keep track of medicines
- Use a pillbox, cellphone or computer to keep track of pills
- Ask for help from family and friends.
- Use a calendar to remember to order refills for your medication.
- You can place your order for refill 3 to 4 days before your medicine run out.

#### **What to do if a dose is missed**

If you miss a dose, do the following

- Take the missed dose as soon as possible on the same day
- For patients receiving 2.5 mg twice daily: if a dose is missed, the patient should take a single 2.5 mg XARELTO
- For patients receiving 15 mg twice daily: The patient should take XARELTO immediately to ensure intake of 30 mg XARELTO per day. Two 15 mg tablets may be taken at once.

- For patients receiving 20 mg, 15 mg or 10 mg once daily: The patient should take the missed XARELTO dose immediately. The dose should not be doubled within the same day to make up for a missed dose.

### **Importance of Adherence**

It is very important that you take your medication every day at the same scheduled time. This will help you get the most benefits from the medications and will also greatly reduced the need for you to be frequently admitted into the hospital. Taking your medication every day will improve your quality of life by allowing you to participate more in your routine daily activities. Not taking your medication can increase your risk of having a blood clot.

Do not stop taking your medication without talking to your doctor.

### **Food/Drug interactions**

- Tell your doctors, dentist and pharmacist about all the medications you are taking, including over the counter medicine, herbal and dietary supplements

### **Possible side effects**

- Possible bleeding
- Bleeding from cuts may last longer
- Bruising may happen more easily
- Skin rash or allergic reaction
- Tell your doctor about any side effect that bother you

### **Signs to report**

- Bleeding from the nose, gums or ears
- Coughing up blood
- Bleeding from cuts that won't stop after applying pressure for 10 minutes
- Menstrual bleeding that is heavier or longer than normal
- Vomiting blood (may look like coffee grounds)
- Bruises that appear without reason or become swollen or purplish spots on your skin
- Unusual headache or hemorrhoidal bleeding
- Bowel movement that looks bright red, black or tarry
- Stomach or abdominal pain that does not go away
- Reddish or brown colored urine

If you notice any of these signs, contact your doctor immediately.

**This Educational handout Review and Revision information**

Date of Origination: 07/2019

Last Date Revised: 07/2020

Last Date Reviewed: 08/2021