Sharp Orthopedic Coumadin Clinic

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Original Design of the Clinic

- Patients were having total joint replacements at four of the acute care hospitals in the Sharp System
- These patients are at risk of VTE
- Patients are initiated and maintained on Coumadin while inpatients by certified pharmacists per protocol
- 28 days of Coumadin total
Evolution of the Outpatient Clinic

- Telephonic
- FTE Pharmacy technician is the administrator of the clinic
- Pharmacist PTE
- Data recorded in the 4 acute inpatient settings and sent to the central clinic upon discharge
- Patients are either at home or SNF
- Blood draws at home, outpatient or SNF
Standards in the Coumadin Clinic

- Patient data is documented on Excel spreadsheets
- A standard prescription strength of 4 mg is given to all patients
- A standard dialogue is used with each initial interview and each subsequent follow up INR
- A dosing calculator is built into each Excel spreadsheet
Example of the Initial Interview

- Verify that patient has Coumadin 4 mg strength tablets at home
- Verify ALL medications
- Suggested meds patient is to be taken off of
- Determine if the patient is currently experiencing and s/sx of bleeding
- Accurate dosing is given; counsel patients to write information down
Example of Subsequent INR Evaluations with Patients

- Patient is questioned to determine:
  - S/Sx of bleeding or other problems
  - Changes to medications
- Accurate dosing is given
Discharge Counseling Given on Day 28

- Patient is given instructions as to when to resume ASA/NSAIDS or supplements
- Disposal instructions per the State Board of Pharmacy are given