ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
Warfarin	
Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Administration	Monitoring	Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Restrictions

Formulary: Highly Restricted

HIGH RISK Medication ⚠

Medication Class

Vitamin K antagonist

Presentation

Warning: Always use the same brand as different brands are NOT bioequivalent

Tablet **(Marevan®)**: 1mg (brown), 3mg (blue), 5mg (pink)

Tablet **(Coumadin®)**: 1mg (light tan), 2mg (lavender), 5mg (green)

Storage

Store below 30°C. Protect from light.

Dose

Initial dosing

Oral: See Venous thromboembolism (VTE): Prevention and management and Anticoagulation

Medication Chart MR 810.11 for doses and target INR ranges

Withholding and Restarting Peri-Operatively

Oral: Refer to Pre-operative Medication Management

Administration

Oral

Should be taken consistently with regards to food.

Consider providing patient information: Living with Warfarin

Monitoring

Obtain INR according to local protocol (see Anticoagulation Medication Chart MR 810.11) until INR is stable in the therapeutic range.

Full effect of a dose change is not seen for 2 to 3 days.

If starting warfarin in a heparinised patient, discontinue heparin after a minimum of 4 days of warfarin therapy and when INR is therapeutic (>2) for two consecutive days.

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Contraindicated

2nd Trimester: Contraindicated

3rd Trimester: Contraindicated

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

External Legislation, Standards and Policy:

Venous Thromboembolism prevention Clinical Care Standard

National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards: Medication Safety Standard: Medication management processes: Action 4.15

HDWA Mandatory Policies:

High Risk Medication Policy

Medication Chart Policy

WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:

Cardiac Disease and Pregnancy

High Risk Medications

Venous thromboembolism (VTE): Prevention and management

WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:

Pre-operative Medication Management

Other NMHS Policies:

Charting Medicines with Generic and/or Trade Names

References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Warfarin. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2026 [cited 2026 Apr 24]. Available from: https://amhonline.amh.net.au/

AusDI [Internet]. St Leonards (NSW): Health Communication Network; c2026. Marevan; [updated 2022 Dec 16; cited 2026 Apr 24]. Available from: https://ausdi-hcn-com-au.kelibresources.health.wa.gov.au/productInformation.hcn?file=p01069

The Royal Women's Hospital. Warfarin. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2026 [cited 2026 Apr 24]. Available from: https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/

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NSQHS Standards Applicable:	☒ Std 1: Clinical Governance ☐ Std 2: Partnering with Consumers ☐ Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection ☒ Std 4: Medication Safety			☐ Std 5: Comprehensive Care ☐ Std 6: Communicating for Safety ☐ Std 7: Blood Management ☐ Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration	
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