

Anticoagulants:

Questions Patients Should Ask and Understand

1. Why do I need to take a blood thinner?
2. How does my blood thinner work?
3. What is the name of and how do I take this medication?
4. How long do I have to stay on a blood thinner?
5. Do I need regular blood tests?
6. What should I do if I forget to take a dose?
7. What are the main risks and side effects of taking a blood thinner?
8. When should I call my doctor or call 911?
9. Can my blood thinner interact with other medications I take?
10. Is it important for me to tell my doctor all the other medications I take, including over-the-counter supplements?
11. What non-prescription medications are safe to take?
12. Are there medications (prescription or over-the-counter) that I should avoid?
13. Are there any restrictions on my diet?
14. Can I drink alcohol?
15. Are there things I need to know about taking my blood thinner if I am sick, say with the flu or a stomach virus?
16. Should I wear a medical alert tag if I am on a blood thinner?
17. Is it important to let my close friends and family members know that I am taking a blood thinner?
18. Is it normal to be depressed or worried about having to take a blood thinner or having a blood clot?



Additional Patient Resources:

- Quality Insights resources: http://bit.ly/QI_Tools
 - Medications You Are Taking Now flyer
 - Safe Medications While You Are Taking Warfarin flyer
 - Taking Charge of My Warfarin/Anticoagulant flyer
- AHRQ Blood Thinner Pills booklet: http://bit.ly/QI_BloodThinner
- AHA/ASA Let's Talk About Anticoagulants & Antiplatelet Agents flyer: http://bit.ly/QI_AHAASA

