



Cheshire and Merseyside

NHS Cheshire and Mersey (C&M) Position Statement:

Use of Direct-Acting Oral Anticoagulants in Atrial Fibrillation

Direct-acting oral anticoagulant (DOAC) medicine optimisation (MO) reviews that have been implemented over the past 2 years have had a positive impact on patient safety and quality of prescribing. Based on a comprehensive analysis of the DOAC MO reviews conducted within one of our nine places in C&M numerically, patients had less admissions to hospital for bleeding or clots, although numbers were small and therefore statistical significance was not demonstrated.

NHSE (2024) commissioning guidance was updated in September 2024 and advised that the DOACs with the best value are generic apixaban and rivaroxaban. Apixaban is the best value twice daily preparation and rivaroxaban the best value once daily preparation.

NHS Cheshire and Mersey ICB recommend that the routine DOAC MO reviews should continue to be undertaken. NICE Guidance (NG196 2021) recommend an MO review at least annually, or more frequently if clinically required. It is expected that a growth in the use of apixaban and rivaroxaban will be seen across secondary and primary care as a result of the updated national commissioning guidance.

NHSE Operational note: Commissioning recommendations for national procurement for direct-acting oral anticoagulants(s) (DOACs). [online] [NHS England » Operational note: Commissioning recommendations for national procurement for direct-acting oral anticoagulant\(s\) \(DOACs\)](#)