



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Circular 013/13

30th July 2013

Dear Doctor,

The HSE has approved reimbursement for Apixaban (Eliquis) in circumstances where the product is used as a second line therapy when Warfarin may not be appropriate. You were advised in Circular 010/12 (25th July 2012) that reimbursement for Dabigatran (Pradaxa) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) had been approved in similar circumstances. These three New Oral Anticoagulant Drugs (NOACs) continue to present significant clinical, financial and operational challenges to the healthcare system.

Warfarin remains the recommended first line agent reimbursed (including for newly diagnosed patients). Apixaban, Dabigatran or Rivaroxaban should be reserved for:

- 1. Existing patients on Warfarin with poor INR control despite adhering to monitoring and lifestyle requirements and documented attempts to optimise Warfarin therapy.**
- 2. Existing patients who require regular periodic treatment with medicines that are known to interact with Warfarin.**
- 3. Patients with a documented allergy to Warfarin.**

Patient specific applications for reimbursement will be required from **the physician responsible for the management of the patient's anticoagulation** in each 'de novo' case prior to reimbursement approval. You will be aware that an application form for individual reimbursement of these NOACs has been previously developed in conjunction with the Clinical Strategy & Programmes Directorate to capture pertinent information. The form to request Individual Reimbursement Approval, which is to be forwarded by the Prescriber, can be accessed from www.pcrs.ie (online services) or by emailing pharmacy.response@hse.ie.

The requirement for individual applications prior to reimbursement of these NOACs is designed to manage the financial challenges faced. Your cooperation is requested to ensure sufficient funding is available to support existing services provided by the HSE whilst also managing the introduction of these new agents.

In collaboration with the Medicines Management Programme, an updated online version of the application form for Prescribers for the reimbursement of new oral anticoagulants for non valvular atrial fibrillation is being developed. The new version is aimed at supporting the safe prescribing of these new agents by providing information in relation to clinical indication and bleeding risks associated with the use of these agents.

A separate communication has been issued to the hospital system. The HSE will continue to update you in relation to these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Burke
Primary Care Reimbursement Service