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SUBJECT/TITLE Low Molecular Weight Heparin (LMWH) for Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prophylaxis in LTC residents with COVID-19 infection	ORIGINAL DATE 01-December-2020 REVISION DATE 01-February 2022

The Calgary Zone Long Term Care (LTC) Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee made the decision to expedite coverage for low molecular weight heparin pharmacological thromboprophylaxis in LTC residents who have COVID-19 infection when determined to be required by the interdisciplinary team.

Submission Process

Requests for coverage will be submitted using the Low Molecular Weight Heparin High Cost Drug form (HCD-06). Complete the section, “Additional Information Relating to Request” with the pertinent information related to diagnosis, dose, and duration of therapy (the form is intended only for short-course regimens). Please submit the form prior to initial drug provision if possible.

Discussion

The reader should refer to clinical practice and drug information resources specific to COVID thromboprophylaxis for up-to-date guidance.

- Dosing

The decision to use prophylaxis dosing or higher dosing is dependent on multiple patient factors that require assessment at the point of prescribing and minimally include the following:

- COVID-19 symptom severity
- co-morbidities
- additional risk factors for VTE,
- bleeding risk
- organ function
- weight
- client's/Agent's wishes and Goals of Care Designation, LTC context

- Duration of thromboprophylaxis

Currently, there is insufficient evidence to routinely recommend an extended duration of therapy; rather, the duration of therapy needs assessing on an individual basis.

The attending physician is required to specify a duration of therapy in the medication order.

- Monitor regularly for potential adverse effects, as for any resident on anticoagulation.

All LTC residents with COVID-19 infection should be monitored for signs or symptoms of stroke, deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism or acute coronary syndrome, and managed/treated according to resident goals of care, expressed wishes and advance care plans.

- LTC operators in Calgary may stock a small supply of **one brand** and **one strength** of commercially available prefilled LMWH syringes in their Statbox upon approval by the operators' medical advisory committee for the purposes of commencing therapy in a timely manner in urgent scenarios. Subsequent doses should be provided patient-specific by the pharmacy service provider as per the service agreement.

References

1. AHS VTE Working Group. *VTE Prophylaxis for Admitted COVID-19 Patients*; October 1, 2021; <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-phm-vte-prophylaxis-for-covid-19-patients-memo.pdf>. Accessed January 12, 2022
2. AHS Scientific Advisory Group. *Infographic: Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prevention and Screening in COVID-19 patients*; November 19, 2021. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sag-vte-rapid-review-infographic.pdf> Accessed January 12, 2022
3. AHS Scientific Advisory Group. *COVID-19 SAG Rapid Brief: Screening and Preventing Venous Thromboembolic Events in Patients with COVID-19 [UPDATED]*; November 16, 2021. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sag-rapid-brief-screening-and-preventing-venous-thromboembolic-events.pdf> . Accessed January 12, 2022
4. AMDA-Society of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. *Anticoagulation of Patients with COVID 19 in PALTC*; May 28, 2020. [http://paltc.org/sites/default/files/Guidance for PALTC Providers re anticoagulation of patients with COVID 19.pdf](http://paltc.org/sites/default/files/Guidance%20for%20PALTC%20Providers%20re%20anticoagulation%20of%20patients%20with%20COVID%2019.pdf). Accessed January 12, 2022.
5. American Society of Hematology. *COVID-19 and VTE/Anticoagulation: Frequently Asked Questions*. Version 12.0; last updated November 2, 2021. <https://www.hematology.org/covid-19/covid-19-and-vte-anticoagulation>. Accessed January 12, 2022.
6. Barnes GD, Burnett A, Allen A, et al. *Thromboembolism and anticoagulant therapy during the COVID-19 pandemic: interim clinical guidance from the anticoagulation forum*. J Thromb Thrombolysis. 2020;50(1):72-81. doi:10.1007/s11239-020-02138-z
7. Cuker A, Tseng EK, Nieuwlaat R, et al. *American Society of Hematology living guidelines on the use of anticoagulation for thromboprophylaxis in patients with COVID-19: July 2021 update on post-discharge thromboprophylaxis*. Blood Adv. November 2021. doi:10.1182/bloodadvances.2021005945
8. Thrombosis Canada. *Thrombosis & COVID-19: Questions and Answers April 2020.*; 2020. https://thrombosiscanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-and-Thrombosis-QA_25April2020.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2022.