

## Interim NCL Position Statement

May 2022

### Choice of Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC) for prevention of stroke & systemic embolism in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF)

#### Note:

- DOACs are not clinically appropriate for all patients requiring anticoagulation and should be used with caution in patients at higher risk of bleeding, e.g. the elderly or in patients with low body weight or renal impairment (NB: anticoagulation may be **NOT** be clinically appropriate for some patients)
- This position statement **does NOT** apply to DOAC use for treatment of *Venous Thromboembolism*
- This position statement is not intended to replace local Trust or NCL guidance, which should be referred to for further information

#### **1. Patients to be newly initiated on a DOAC for NVAF:**

Where a DOAC is to be initiated for prevention of stroke & systemic embolism in patients with NVAF, **edoxaban should be considered as the first line option across NCL** (*where clinically appropriate*); since (1) all DOACs are endorsed as treatment options by NICE; and (2) edoxaban currently has the lowest acquisition cost, is a once daily dose, and does not need to be taken with food.

*Consider initiating once-daily rivaroxaban in preference to edoxaban for NVAF:*

- for patients who have a CrCL >90ml/min (Cockcroft Gault)
- where drug interactions preclude the use of edoxaban

*Consider initiating twice-daily apixaban in preference to edoxaban or rivaroxaban for NVAF:*

- in the frail / frail elderly / patients with low body weight and or renal impairment
- for individuals at high-risk of gastrointestinal or other mucosal bleeding
- where potential drug interactions preclude the use of edoxaban or rivaroxaban

#### **2. Patients already established on a DOAC or warfarin for NVAF:**

Criteria for switching low risk patients to edoxaban and an implementation plan for safe switching are currently in development and will be released in due course subject to final approval.

*\* In line with NICE TAs, all anticoagulant options will be available if clinically appropriate \**

## References

1. NICE NG196. Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management (April 2021, last updated June 2021) <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng196/chapter/Recommendations>
2. NICE TA275. Apixaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (February 2013, last updated July 2021) <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta275>
3. NICE TA256. Rivaroxaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with atrial fibrillation (May 2012, last updated July 2021) <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta256>
4. NICE TA355. Edoxaban for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (September 2015, last updated July 2021) <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta355>
5. NICE TA249. Dabigatran for preventing stroke and systemic embolism in atrial fibrillation (March 2012, last updated July 2021) <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta249>
6. NHSE. Operational note: Commissioning recommendations for national procurement for DOACs (January 2022) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/B1279-national-procurement-for-DOACs-commissioning-recommendations-v1.pdf>
7. MHRA. Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs): reminder of bleeding risk, including availability of reversal agents (June 2020) <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/direct-acting-oral-anticoagulants-doacs-reminder-of-bleeding-risk-including-availability-of-reversal-agents>
8. Summary of Product Characteristics for edoxaban 60mg tablets (April 2022) <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/6905/smpc#gref>
9. British National Formulary. Edoxaban (accessed May 2022) <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/edoxaban.html>
10. FDA. Drug Trials Snapshot: Savaysa (edoxaban) for Prevention of Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation (September 2017) <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-approvals-and-databases/drug-trials-snapshot-savaysa-edoxaban-prevention-stroke-atrial-fibrillation>
11. British National Formulary: Rivaroxaban (accessed May 2022) [bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/rivaroxaban.html](https://bnf.nice.org.uk/drug/rivaroxaban.html)
12. Summary of Product characteristics for rivaroxaban 20mg tablets (January 2022) <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/2793/smpc#gref>

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