

## Blood Thinning Medication

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### Why do I need blood thinning medication?

After surgery you have an increased risk of forming a blood clot.

You will be given blood thinning medication to prevent a blood clot while you are in the hospital. **You will also need to take this medication at home.**

A member of the Thromboembolism Team will assess what type of medication you need.

### What are the types of blood thinning medication?

Blood thinning medication comes in pills and needles.

**If you take pills**, you will need to pay for these unless you have an insurance plan to cover the cost. You will also need to have blood tests done in a community lab once a week to see how the medication is working. The blood tests are free in a community lab. You can have your blood taken in your home for your blood tests but you pay for this service. If you want blood taken in your home, your family doctor needs to arrange this.

**If you have a needle**, you and your support person will learn how to inject it. Your family doctor or specialist will follow you closely and manage your treatment. You may have to pay for this even if you have a drug plan. Some plans pay for this and some do not. It depends on the reason you need anticoagulant therapy.

### What is bridging anticoagulant therapy?

This is a process of changing your anticoagulant therapy from oral medications to injections **or** injections to oral medication. When you need bridging therapy a member of the Thromboembolism Team will explain it and help you through it.