

Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis

The Victorian Surgical Consultative Council strongly endorses the document published by the National Institute of Clinical Studies (a body of the National Health and Medical Research Council) entitled 'Stop the Clot'.

Copies of the 'Stop the Clot' guides and associated resources, including translations of the patient brochure, are available for download from the NICS website at www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics Follow the links to 'programs' and 'VTE prevention'.

In November 2005, as chairman of the VSCC, I wrote to all health services in Victoria following a specific case where the coroner recommended that in all peri-operative orders there should be written a clear statement about the appropriate prophylactic measures to be undertaken to minimise the risk of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

That letter also suggested that a risk assessment form be completed and included in the medical records of all in-patients. The letter stated that, "For each patient admitted a decision about the type of prophylaxis should be made and noted in the medical record; with consideration of the patient's age, the nature of the operative procedure and the presence of identified risk factors (This includes "nil required" where this is applicable).

The attached sample form has been designed and published by NICS with the 'Stop the Clot' documents. The VSCC would recommend its use for all patients admitted to hospital. By using such a form a positive decision would be made about the type (if any) of venous thromboembolic preventative measures that should be undertaken.

Jonathan Rush
Chairman VSCC

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