

The Victorian Surgical Consultative Council

Chairman: Jonathan Rush, FRACS
Level 7, 589 Collins Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Tel: (03) 9616 1382
Fax: 1300 138 933
Website: www.health.vic.gov.au/vscc

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Chief Executive Officer – *Of all Victorian hospitals*

«CEOPrefix» «CEOFirstName» «CEOLastName»

«AgencyName»

«Address1» «Address2»

«Suburb» «State» «PostCode»

Dear «CEOPrefix» «CEOFirstName»

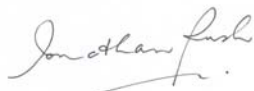
Re: Venous Thrombo-Embolism Prophylaxis

For some time the Victorian Surgical Consultative Council has been considering this difficult topic. After the review of a specific case, approximately twelve months ago, 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.

Health care facilities should consider having a form, in the medical record documents, which attempts to assess the risk of venous thrombo-embolism and allow the treating doctor to come to a rational decision about the appropriate treatment for every patient admitted to hospital. The Victorian Surgical Consultative Council recommends that all health care facilities use such a risk assessment form even if such a form is not in place at this stage. Attached to this letter is an example of an appropriate form that could be used with relevant changes made according to the policies etc of each institution.

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).

Yours sincerely



JONATHAN RUSH, FRACS

CHAIRMAN

THE VICTORIAN SURGICAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL