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**SXM SYMPTOM MEDICINE**  
Pain Medicine, Palliative Care, Anesthesia

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## PATIENT ANTI-COAGULANT THERAPY POLICY & EDUCATION

Anticoagulation therapy alters the way the body forms blood clots and scabs. These medications include but are not limited to thrombolytic, anti-platelet, thrombin inhibitor, and fibrinolytic medications. In certain disease, anticoagulation medications are important to health maintenance. These medications are given to a patient to help decrease the likelihood of strokes, DVT, pulmonary embolisms, deep vein thrombosis, CVA and so forth. ; However, anti-platelet medications can lead to complications if they are continued while undergoing a surgical or interventional procedure. The side effects include, but are not limited to bleeding, hemorrhagic events, hematoma formation. Thus, it may be necessary to stop these medications prior to any elective procedure. In most cases, the medications are safe to restart 24 hours after a procedure. With this being said, anticoagulation medications are supervised by your prescribing physician. He/she will determine if it is appropriate and safe for you to interrupt your medications, how long it can be interrupted, and when it can be resumed. Based on the ASRA consensus statement (<http://www.arsra.com>), Symptom Medicine asks medications to be held for a finite amount of time before any surgical or interventional procedure.

- Thrombolytic and fibrinolytic medications: hold 10 days, and may require a fibrinogen level
- Heparin: hold 24 hours, heparin >4 days requires a normal platelet level
- Low molecular weight heparin (Lovenox): hold 24 hours (anti-Xa level is not predictive of bleeding risk)
- Coumadin: hold 5 days and a PT/INR level, INR <1.4, normal vitamin K levels
- Aspirin: hold 5-7 days
- NSAIDS (Motrin, Advil, Aleve.): hold 5-7 days
- Plavix (clopidogrel): hold 7-10 days
- Ticlid (ticlopidine): hold 14 days
- Herbals such as feverfew, garlic, ginger, Echinacea ginkgo ginseng wait 5-7 days
- Pletal: hold 5-7 days
- Elmiron: hold 5-7 days
- Platelet inhibitors (abciximab, eptifibatide, tirofiban) are contraindicated within four weeks of surgery
- Thrombin inhibitors (desirudin, lepirudin, bivalirudin, argatroban, fondaparinux): Due to lack of information regarding, hematoma risk, no procedure can occur within 30 day of receiving one of these medication.
- A combination of any of the above mentioned medications may require a 14-to 30 day interruption before a procedure can be considered.

Please indicate if you are on any of the above medications or herbals by circling it above. Your prescribing physician will determine if you may discontinue your medications required to proceed with a procedure. Have your prescribing physician complete the Medical Clearance and Anticoagulation form. Sign below acknowledging that you have read, and understand the above and your questions were answered.

Patient Signature	Name:	Date and Time
Patient Representative Signature	Name and Relationship	Date and Time