

## Medicines Management FAQs

### Can we extend the INR testing interval?

MHRA (13/10/20): [Warfarin and other anticoagulants – monitoring of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Healthcare professionals are reminded that acute illness may exaggerate the effect of warfarin tablets and necessitate a dose reduction. Therefore, continued INR monitoring is important in patients taking warfarin or other vitamin K antagonists (VKA) if they have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, so they can be clinically managed at an early stage to reduce the risk of bleeding.

#### **From NUH:-**

The service is actively doing this already. For patients attending the Anticoagulant clinic for POC testing, they have delayed next test wherever possible (and plan to space interval out as much as possible when they do attend). For patients dosed remotely via ACRDS they are actively pushing the re-test date back as far as feels comfortable for that patient to try and minimise testing over the next few months as much as possible. However the service does not have the capacity to review all upcoming test dates for patients previously dosed remotely, as there are over 4000 patients in that category.

#### **July 2020 NUH update:**

NUH have had to change quite a few of their clinic patients temporarily to the GP shared care/home visits due to shielding – they are extending as many test dates as safely possible – patients can also go to blood taking rooms at City, QMC and The Treatment Centre and for shielding patients they offer a drive through capillary INR outside the ENT block at QMC.

From the BSH Haemostasis and Thrombosis Task Force - [INR testing for out-patients on warfarin during COVID-19 restrictions](#)

For further information see NHSE and I [Clinical guide for the management of anticoagulant services during the coronavirus pandemic](#)