**Winner**

**Adherence to guidelines for extended venous thromboembolism prophylaxis in colorectal cancer patients**

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**Background:**

Extended venous thromboembolism prophylaxis (EVTEP) with enoxaparin for 28 days following surgery for cancer has a 60% risk reduction for venous thromboembolic events compared with a standard 6-10 day course.1 NICE guidelines suggest EVTEP should be offered to patients undergoing major abdominal/pelvic cancer surgery.2 This audit aimed to assess whether the Trust’s EVTEP prescribing and monitoring guidelines were being followed.

**Methods:**

A retrospective audit was undertaken using medical documentation of patients undergoing elective colorectal cancer surgery at the trust during February 2011. Adherence to trust EVTEP guidelines were recorded using a proforma, with targets at 100% for each standard. During April-May 2012, a prospective re-audit was undertaken. Following each cycle, audit results and improvement suggestions were presented to multi-disciplinary team-members.

**Results:**

Comparison of the initial audit (n=19) and re-audit (n=17) results showed a global improvement in guideline adherence. Marked improvements were seen in correct identification of programme patients (10% to 82%), information provision (16% to 82%) and correct completion of discharge letters (33% to 100%).

**Key Messages:**

This audit has shown improvements in EVTEP-related patient care and adherence to guidelines following educational interventions. The third audit cycle is underway to determine whether further education has brought about desired improvement.

**References:**

1. Bergqvist D, Agnelli G, Cohen AT, Eldor A, Nilsson PE, Le Moigne-Amrani A, et al. Duration of prophylaxis against venous thromboembolism with enoxaparin after surgery for cancer. *The New England Journal of Medicine*. 2002;346(13):975-80.
2. National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. *CG92 Venous thromboembolism – reducing the risk*. London: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; 2010.