

Improving Patient Care through a DVT Risk Assessment Process

Lauryl Kristufek
St. Charles Mercy Hospital
Oregon, Ohio



The Sixth ACCP Consensus Conference on Antithrombotic Therapy recommends that hospitals develop formal strategies to reduce thromboembolic complications through written thromboprophylaxis policies¹. Over the past two years SCMH has developed and piloted a DVT risk assessment process with cooperation from pharmacy, nursing, and the medical staff. On a pilot unit, each patient was assessed for DVT risk upon admission by a nurse using our DVT risk assessment

form. Based on DVT risk factors the patients are placed into a risk category. The risk category and recommendations for appropriate prophylactic therapy are then provided to the physician. Through this multidisciplinary approach we have doubled the percentage of patients receiving appropriate prophylaxis on the pilot unit.

Because of the success of our pilot program the decision was made to extend our process to the entire hospital. This process has increased the awareness of DVT risk with patients, staff, and physicians while improving the care of our patients.

¹Chest 2001; 119:132s-175s

This initiative addresses Goal #3 of the ASHP 2015 Initiative.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TOOLS

- [DVT Risk Assessment Form](#) (PDF)

These "2015 Success Stories" highlight successes in implementing one of the ASHP [2015 Objectives](#). Tools and resources are also provided for each success story. For more information, email 2015@ashp.org or send your "Success Story" accompanied by a [permission form](#) (PDF).