New UMHS Program for Outpatient Management of DVT Using LMWH

Many patients with DVT may be safely managed as outpatients. UMHS clinicians may now enter patients into a home-care DVT protocol for treatment. The protocol provides care for all patients who meet clinical criteria, regardless of their insurance coverage. Patients whose insurance does not cover outpatient LMWH will not be charged.

The protocol includes LMWH, home nursing care and instruction, laboratory testing, and transition to oral anticoagulation through the University of Michigan Anticoagulation Service and in partnership with the patient’s primary care physician. Follow up and duration of anticoagulation is at the direction of the ordering/coordinating UM clinician. Three UMHS units are involved: the Emergency Department (ED) initiates the protocol, HomeMed provides the medication, and Michigan Visiting Nurses (MVN) delivers the care.

For patients with suspected DVT the process is:

**Diagnosis.** UM physician orders a duplex venous scan to confirm diagnosis. The result is returned stat to the patient’s physician via UM alpha numeric paging. If the result confirms DVT, the patient’s physician will call:

- the Vascular Lab technician to send patient to UM ED.
- the ED attending physician to give details and suggestion for treatment (936-6660)

**Treatment initiation.** UM ED physician evaluates all cases and initiates protocol in patients who are candidates for outpatient treatment. Candidacy for the protocol depends on reasonable home-care suitability, medical appropriateness, and geography. Initiating treatment includes:

- assessment
- initial laboratory testing
- prescriptions for LMWH and coumadin
- administration of first dose of LMWH and coumadin
- referrals to MVN and HomeMed

**Home-care and follow up.** After the ED discharge:

- Patient's ordering UM physician (or his/her practice) resumes care and oversight.
- HomeMed delivers medication/supplies to the patient’s home/residence.

- **Dosing is coordinated:** MVN contacts UM Anticoagulation Service with referral information, including ordering physician’s name and contact information. MVN communicates with ordering physician.
  - MVN nurse will visit for...
    - assessment
    - instruction of self administration of LMWH and coumadin
    - instruction
    - laboratory testing
    - review of protocol and criteria for return to the ED

**Further information.** For further information, please contact the relevant UMHS unit.

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