To **reduce your bleeding and clotting risk** it is important that you **attend follow-up appointments** with your provider, and **have blood tests done** as your provider orders.

**What is apixaban (Eliquis®)?**

- Apixaban is also called Eliquis®
- Apixaban(Eliquis®) is used to reduce the risk of blood clots and stroke in people with an abnormal heart rhythm known as atrial fibrillation, in people who have had a blood clot, or in people who have undergone orthopedic surgery.
  - Blood clots can block a blood vessel cutting off blood supply to the area.
  - Rarely, clots can break into pieces and travel in the blood stream, lodging in the heart (causing a heart attack), the lungs (causing a pulmonary embolus), or in the brain (causing a stroke).

- If you were previously on Warfarin/Coumadin® and you are starting Apixaban(Eliquis®) **do not** continue taking warfarin. Apixaban(Eliquis®) replaces Warfarin/Coumadin®.

**How should I take apixaban (Eliquis®)?**

- Take Apixaban(Eliquis®) exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- Apixaban(Eliquis®) may be taken with or without food.
- If you missed a dose:
  - Take it as soon as you remember on the same day. Do not double a dose to make up for a missed dose.
• Do not stop taking Apixaban(Eliquis®) suddenly without telling your doctor. This can put you at risk of having a stroke or a blood clot.
• If you take too much Apixaban(Eliquis®), call your doctor or anticoagulation service. If you are experiencing any bleeding which you cannot get to stop, go to the nearest emergency room.

How should I store apixaban (Eliquis®)?
• Store at room temperature in a dry area (avoid storing it in the bathroom).

What should I know about apixaban (Eliquis®)?
• Apixaban(Eliquis®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it lessens your body’s ability to clot. While you take Apixaban(Eliquis®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
• Apixaban(Eliquis®) can cause bleeding which can be serious. You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take Apixaban(Eliquis®) and:
  o You are over 75 years old
  o You have kidney problems
  o You have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or recurs, or have a stomach ulcer.
  o You take other medications that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
    ▪ Aspirin or products that contain aspirin
    ▪ Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including ibuprofen and naproxen.
    ▪ Clopidogrel (Plavix®), prasugrel (Effient®), or ticagrelor (Brilinta®)
    ▪ Any medicine that contains heparin
What are the potential side effects of apixaban (Eliquis®)?

- Apixaban (Eliquis®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it lessens your body’s ability to clot. While you take Apixaban (Eliquis®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- In some people, Apixaban (Eliquis®) can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Seek medical attention right away if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
  - Chest pain or chest tightness
  - Swelling of your face or tongue
  - Trouble breathing or wheezing
  - Feeling dizzy or faint

When should I call my doctor or anticoagulation service?

- If you start or stop any medications, including over-the-counter medications or herbal supplements. These may affect the way apixaban works.
- You are having a surgery or procedure as you may need to stop taking apixaban for a short period of time before your procedure. Do not stop taking Apixaban (Eliquis®) without first talking with your doctor.
- You need a medication refill (notify them before you are out of apixaban so you do not run out).
- If you are unable to afford apixaban.
- If you experience any unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
  - Unusual bleeding from the gums
  - Nose bleeds that happen often
  - Menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - Bruises that happen without a known cause or get larger
When should I seek emergency medical help?

Call 911 immediately if you experience any of the following serious conditions:

- If you experience any of the following signs and symptoms of bleeding:
  - Bleeding that is severe or bleeding that you cannot control
  - Pink or brown urine
  - Red or black stools (that look like tar)
  - Coughing up blood or blood clots
  - Vomiting up blood or if your vomit looks like “coffee grounds”

- If you experience any of the following signs and symptoms of a stroke:
  - Dizziness, sudden loss of vision, or sudden severe headache
  - Numbness or weakness in any limb
  - Difficulty speaking or slurred speech
  - Drooping on one side of your face

- If you experience any of the following signs and symptoms of blood clots:
  - Sudden severe shortness of breath, chest pain
  - Swelling, redness, heat, or pain in any limb