



Subject: Anticoagulation Therapy – Preoperative*

Effective Date: May 3, 2001

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: QualCare will cover up to two pre-operative hospital days for conversion from oral to parenteral anticoagulant, for patients needing surgery who also have a condition requiring anticoagulation therapy.

Objective: To ensure proper and consistent reimbursement and appropriate utilization of resources

Procedure:

- The UM Department will review requests for pre-op days for anticoagulation therapy on a case by case basis.
- Appropriate clinical information must be obtained prior to authorization of such pre-op days. This includes, but is not limited to, presence or absence of a mechanical prosthetic heart valve, cardiac dysrhythmia, hypercoagulable state, the potential for use of a low molecular weight heparin, recent (\leq 1 month) deep venous thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism.
- Authorization of pre-operative days for patients who are taking clopidogrel (Plavix[®]) or other anti-platelet agents that may require more than two pre-operative days for dissipation of the drug effect will be referred to the medical director.

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*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.