

CLINICAL ALERT

Risks of Venous Thrombosis (VTE)

Date: 24 January 2017

NO: 26

A recent incident where a service user died having suffered a pulmonary embolus has identified the need to ensure that all service users are assessed for their risks of venous thrombosis (VTE) and prophylaxis treatment commenced.

Preventing avoidable harm from VTE is fundamental in improving the safety and quality of care provided to patients.

There is a high risk of VTE for patients whose mobility has decreased significantly relative to their normal state. This may be caused by restriction in movement related to underlying physical health which in mental health may be exacerbated by prolonged seclusion, catatonia or medication.

All patients and service users should have their risks of VTE assessed on admission and throughout their stay if their condition or circumstance changes, including increased sedation, catatonia or seclusion.

Patients assessed to be at risk of VTE are offered VTE prophylaxis in accordance with NICE guidance.

Staff responsible for assessing patients when acutely unwell should complete the Venous thromboembolism VTE e-learning programme.

Instructions for completing VTE assessment form

Physical Health (MH)/Physical Health Assessment Forms:

- Section entitled "Risk Assessment for Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)"
- Section contains a picklist labelled "Has the patient's mobility changed? (Consider restraint, catatonia, depression, seclusion)". Picklist options "Yes/No"
- If "Yes" selected then conditional panel appears with the following:
 - Label: "Complete the Risk Assessment for Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) form by following the hyperlink"
 - Hyperlink to "Risk Assessment for VTE form" in the "Risk Information" folder.