

## Medical News Release

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### **NICE recommends all patients admitted to hospital are risk assessed for VTE**

Bayer Schering Pharma launches implementation toolkit for the prevention of VTE

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**Newbury, Berkshire, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010** – Publication of today's National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) updated Clinical Practice Guideline for prevention of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) recommends that, for the first time, all patients admitted to hospital are risk assessed for VTE and appropriate measures taken.<sup>1</sup> To assist with the practical implementation of VTE risk assessment and prevention Bayer Schering Pharma (BSP) launches a thromboprophylaxis toolkit.

VTE remains one of the most common causes of preventable in-hospital deaths, killing up to 32,000 people every year<sup>2</sup> – four times more people than MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and *C.difficile* combined.<sup>3,4</sup> It is hoped that with the combination of the new NICE guideline and BSP's Preventing Venous Thromboembolism in Hospital Toolkit that the number of avoidable deaths can be reduced.

Eve Knight, Chief Executive of the Charity AntiCoagulation Europe (ACE), said: "In recent years the majority of healthcare professionals have acknowledged the need to make prevention of VTE a priority. Recently, the All-Parliamentary Thrombosis Group's audit revealed 100% awareness of the Chief Medical Officer and NICE recommendations on the prevention of VTE. Yet the difficult step of taking action has not necessarily followed, as the same audit revealed that less than a quarter of Trusts routinely reassess patients for their risk of VTE and that the number of Trusts able to provide audit data on the ward-level implementation of VTE protocols continues to be worryingly low. We warmly welcome the launch of this toolkit which offers practical solutions to the wide-ranging challenges associated with the effective local implementation and management of VTE thromboprophylaxis."

Publication of new NICE guidelines follow a recent Department of Health initiative that will further encourage hospitals to implement risk assessment and prevention of hospital-acquired VTE by offering financial incentives for compliance. This initiative will operate through the CQUIN (Commissioning for Quality and Innovation) payment framework.<sup>5</sup>

Dr Roopen Arya, Consultant Haematologist at King's College Hospital, said: "We were delighted to be involved in the development of this toolkit which will help support other hospitals in their bid to prevent VTE. We strongly urge all providers of VTE thromboprophylaxis and commissioners of healthcare to make use of the available resources to aid implementation of effective systems to prevent VTE in hospitals, and ultimately reduce the leading cause of preventable deaths in our hospitals."

For further information about the BSP Preventing Venous Thromboembolism in Hospital Toolkit visit: [www.thrombosisadviser.co.uk](http://www.thrombosisadviser.co.uk)

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#### **Note to Editors**

The NICE VTE Prevention Guideline can be accessed at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

### **About Bayer's Preventing Venous Thromboembolism in Hospital: A Toolkit for Assessing and Improving Clinical Practice in Trusts**

The toolkit is suitable for use by anyone who is involved in the provision, management and commissioning of VTE thromboprophylaxis services:

- Providers of VTE thromboprophylaxis (e.g. consultants, nurses, pharmacists, primary care physicians) and Trust managers can use the toolkit to assess their own compliance with the latest national guidance, to set objectives for improvements – and potentially, to reduce clinical, operational and financial risk in practice
- Commissioners can use this toolkit to assess the problem of VTE across their healthcare community, to prioritise investment – and to support contracting and performance monitoring processes

The Thromboprophylaxis Assessment and Implementation Toolkit Route Map is divided into three sections:

- Section 1: Provides an overview of VTE prevention, and advice on how to use the toolkit to enhance clinical practice in Trusts
- Section 2: Provides step-by-step guidance on how to assess Trusts' performance in terms of VTE risk assessment and thromboprophylaxis
- Section 3: Provides advice and support on how to establish effective measures to prevent VTE in Trusts

### **About Bayer Schering Pharma**

Bayer Schering Pharma is a worldwide leading specialty pharmaceutical company. Its research and business activities are focused on the following areas: Diagnostic Imaging, General Medicine, Haematology & Neurology, Oncology and Women's Healthcare. With innovative products, Bayer Schering Pharma aims for leading positions in specialised markets worldwide. Using new ideas, Bayer Schering Pharma aims to make a contribution to medical progress and strives to improve the quality of patients' lives.

Further information can be found at [www.bayerscheringpharma.co.uk](http://www.bayerscheringpharma.co.uk)

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### **References**

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