



## Practice sting 2022-23

### Practice sting Prescribing standard order package

The process of medical interventions requires care and efficiency. Following a standard order package can help with this. Such a standard order package consists of all diagnostics, information, medical procedures and medication that are required for a medical intervention. Nevertheless, following a standard order package does not guarantee error-free work. This is evident from the following notification.

#### Notification

A woman has to undergo total knee surgery. During the intake interview, the patient's Factor V Leiden clotting disorder is discussed. This is recorded in the file as free text, but not as a contraindication (CI) 'Thromboembolic disease, venous'. The medication associated with total knee surgery is prescribed via a standard order package. This standard order package also includes two doses of tranexamic acid: one in the OR and one postoperatively in the nursing ward. The second dose may only be given if the first dose has also been administered.

It was decided in the OR not to administer the first dose of tranexamic acid. The second dose of tranexamic acid has remained in the order. This second dose of tranexamic acid was administered in the nursing ward. Later, a colleague's nurse hears about the patient's coagulation disorder and the unadministered first dose of tranexamic acid. The second dose of tranexamic acid should never have been administered.

#### Analysis

Since the orthopedist has to think of many different aspects during a total knee surgery, a standard order package can help not to forget anything. Nevertheless, it is important to be extra alert in deviating situations. The standard order package used includes two separate lines of tranexamic acid. This poses the risk that the second dose of tranexamic acid can always be administered, even if the first dose has not been given.

Various sources do not provide unequivocal advice on the use of tranexamic acid in patients who have an increased risk of thrombosis. This is also the case for the Factor V Leiden clotting disorder. In addition, not every prescribing and pharmacy information system gives a signal when tranexamic acid is used by a patient who has correctly recorded in the file that he has the CI 'Thromboembolic disease, venous'.

The SmPC states that patients with a high risk of thrombosis (due to a thromboembolic disease in the anamnesis or family history) should only receive tranexamic acid if there is a hard medical indication and under strict medical supervision. Currently, an important part of the Dutch prescribing and pharmacy information systems does not monitor the use of tranexamic acid in the CI 'Thromboembolic disease, venous'. The reason that these prescribing and pharmacy systems do not monitor for the CI 'Thromboembolic disease, venous' is that this contraindication has not yet been assessed by the Dutch Royal Society for the Advancement of Pharmacy (KNMP).

#### Recommendations

##### For hospital information system administrators

- Set up the hospital information system in such a way that the chance of errors when using a standard order package is as small as possible. An example from the above message: If one line from the standard order package is dependent on another line from the package, link the

two lines together. If the first dose of tranexamic acid is removed, the same will be done for the second dose.

**For prescribers who hold the intake interview with the patient**

- If possible, record medical risks as a contraindication.
- When prescribing a standard order package, be alert to special situations of the patient. Adjust the standard order package to this.

**For surgeons**

- Make sure that the administration registration – also for the postoperative phase – is correct. This may mean that several prescription lines have to be stopped if a medicine that is not given in the OR may not be given after the OR.

**For healthcare workers who perform medication verification when a patient is admitted to hospital**

- Ask whether there are any conditions in which certain medicines are contraindicated. Record these correctly in the hospital information system.