

LABORATORY TESTS USED FOR MONITORING ANTICOAGULANTS

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LABORATORY TESTS USED FOR MONITORING ANTICOAGULANTS:

- Vitamin K antagonists (Warfarin)
 - Recommended: PT/INR
 - PT/INR therapeutic range: 9.5 – 11.5 seconds (0.93 – 1.13 INR)
- Unfractionated heparin (UFH)
 - Recommended: aPTT &/or Activated clotting time (ACT) or heparin assay (factor Xa inhibition) *Note: ACT and factor Xa inhibition assays are performed at our reference laboratory
 - aPTT therapeutic range: 24-32 seconds. An APTT of 1.5 – 2.1 times the patient's baseline APTT approximates a plasma heparin level of 0.3-0.5 U/ml
- Direct oral anticoagulant medications (non-Vitamin K)
 - Should NOT be monitored with PT/INR or aPTT.
- LMW heparin or danaparoid
 - Monitoring is typically not necessary, but the heparin assay (Xa inhibition assay) may be used.
- Direct parenteral thrombin inhibitors (DTIs)
 - May monitor with aPTT. (Thrombin time may be useful to qualitatively verify presence of DTIs)

Note: Anticoagulant medications may interfere with specialized coagulation testing (i.e. lupus anticoagulant testing). Please notify the laboratory of any anticoagulant medications the patient is receiving if specialized coagulation testing is requested.

REFERENCES:

Northern Plains Laboratory, May 2019.