Anticoagulant medications are often called blood thinners. They decrease the clotting ability of the blood, which helps prevent clots from forming in blood vessels.

Types of Anticoagulants:

- **Vitamin K Antagonists** - Coumadin® (warfarin) is usually taken once a day. Blood tests are needed to adjust the dose as needed and diet precautions are needed with foods high in Vitamin K.
- **Direct Thrombin Inhibitors** - Pradaxa® (dabigatran) is usually taken twice a day with or without food.
- **Factor Xa Inhibitor** - Xarelto® (rivaroxaban) is usually taken once a day with the evening meal. Eliquis® (apixaban) is usually taken twice a day with or without food.

For Your Safety:

- Tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking an anticoagulant before you plan any medical or dental procedures. You may be told to stop taking it for a short time.
- Check with your doctor before:
  - Taking any aspirin or aspirin products.
  - Taking an NSAIDS (anti-inflammatory medication), such as Aleve® or Advil®.
  - Drinking alcoholic beverages.
- Contact your doctor right away if you have signs of bleeding such as bloody or tarry stools, red or dark brown urine, unusual bruising, or bleeding from the eye, gums, or nose. Also contact your doctor if you have an injury or fall.
- Carry a card in your wallet stating the name of the anticoagulant you are taking. This information is helpful if you need emergency care. You can cut out the card on the next page or make one of your own.
- Do **not** stop taking your medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions or concerns.
I am taking the anticoagulant ________________________
This medication prevents blood clots from forming.
Please tell this right away to anyone providing care to me.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth date</td>
<td>Weight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other medications/conditions</td>
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In an emergency, call:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor’s Name</td>
<td>Phone #</td>
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