

VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM PREVENTION

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INTRODUCTION

Venous thromboembolism (VTE), which encompasses both deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE), is a significant healthcare problem producing considerable morbidity, mortality, and resource utilization. In the United States alone, over a million DVT events and more than 100,000 deaths per year are attributed to PE. These events occur in a wide range of both surgical and medical patients. With appropriate prophylaxis, many of these VTE events can be prevented. Despite more than 30 years of demonstrated efficacy and safety of VTE prophylaxis, it is substantially underutilized. This underutilization has led to the recent involvement of government and other regulatory agencies in an attempt to improve VTE prophylaxis for both surgical and medical patients in U.S. hospitals. Numerous pharmacologic agents, clinical trials, and nationally recognized clinical guidelines (**Table 12-1**) as well as limited data in special populations can provide challenges to understanding what constitutes appropriate VTE prophylaxis.¹

TABLE 12-1: Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Guidelines and Resources

Guideline/Resource	Web Link
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST Guidelines) ^{2,4}	http://journal.publications.chestnet.org/article.aspx?articleid=1085923
Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP)	http://www.jointcommission.org/specifications_manual_for_national_hospital_inpatient_quality_measures.aspx
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/vtguide/
The Joint Commission	http://www.jointcommission.org/venous_thromboembolism/
Deep Vein Thrombosis Coalition	http://www.preventdvt.org/home.aspx
American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS)	http://www.aaos.org/research/guidelines/VTE/VTE_full_guideline.pdf
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) ⁵	http://jco.ascopubs.org/content/early/2015/01/20/JCO.2014.59.7351.full
National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)	http://www.nccn.org/content/9/7/714.short http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/vte.pdf