

Age-adjusted protocol for starting warfarin

	INR [NB1]	Dose for age (mg) [NB1] [NB2]			
		50 years or younger	51 to 65 years	66 to 80 years	older than 80 years
Day 1	less than 1.4	10	9	7.5	6
Day 2	1.5 or less	10	9	7.5	6
	1.6 or more	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Day 3	1.7 or less	10	9	7.5	6
	1.8 to 2.3	5	4.5	4	3
	2.4 to 2.7	4	3.5	3	2
	2.8 to 3.1	3	2.5	2	1
	3.2. to 3.3	2	2	1.5	1
	3.4	1.5	1.5	1	1
	3.5	1	1	1	0.5
	3.6 to 4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	more than 4	withhold dose	withhold dose	withhold dose	withhold dose
Day 4	1.5 or less	10 to 15	9 to 14	7.5 to 11	6 to 9
	1.6	8	7	6	5
	1.7 to 1.8	7	6	5	4
	1.9	6	5	4.5	3.5
	2.0 to 2.6	5	4.5	4	3
	2.7 to 3.0	4	3.5	3	2.5
	3.1 to 3.5	3.5	3	2.5	2
	3.6 to 4.0	3	2.5	2	1.5
	4.1 to 4.5	omit dose for day 4, then on day 5 use: 1 to 2	omit dose for day 4, then on day 5 use: 0.5 to 1.5	omit dose for day 4, then on day 5 use: 0.5 to 1.5	omit dose for day 4 then on day 5 use: 0.5 to 1
	more than 4.5	withhold dose	withhold dose	withhold dose	withhold dose

INR = international normalised ratio

NB1: Patients should take warfarin doses at a consistent time each evening. Take blood samples for INR the following morning.

NB2: Consider giving a lower starting dose depending on the patient's comorbidities and concurrent medication.

Adapted with permission from Tideman PA, Tirimacco R, St John A, Roberts GW. How to manage warfarin therapy. Aust Prescr 2015;38(2):44-8. doi: 10.18773/austprescr.2015.016