Anticoagulation in urban family practice training

Having recently read the article by Nast et al., we were inspired to review our own experience with anticoagulation. At the St Joseph’s Family Medical Centre in London, Ont, our team has 37 patients with atrial fibrillation receiving warfarin. Decisions about medication dosages are made by family practice residents, in conjunction with a team nurse. There were 324 international normalized ratio tests done on these 37 patients during the last 6 months, and 64.5% (208) of results fell within the therapeutic range of 2.0 to 3.0. This demonstrates that urban family practice training programs, like remote primary care practices in Bella Coola, BC, can attain or surpass the standard of 60% set by specialty anticoagulation clinics.

—Deanna Head, RN
—Blair Pierce, MD, FCFP
London, Ont by e-mail

Reference