

# Audit on completion of VTE risk assessment forms: a simple method to prevent DVT and other unwanted complications

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## Introduction

- Hospital acquired venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a term for all VTE that occurs in a hospital stay or within 90 days of admission.
- National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines recommend that all medical patients should be assessed to identify the risk of VTE and bleeding using a risk assessment tool<sup>1</sup>
- VTE prophylaxis is an essential part of preventive medicine to reduce morbidity and mortality.
- An audit was performed in a medical department to assess the number of patients who had the local VTE assessment form completed.

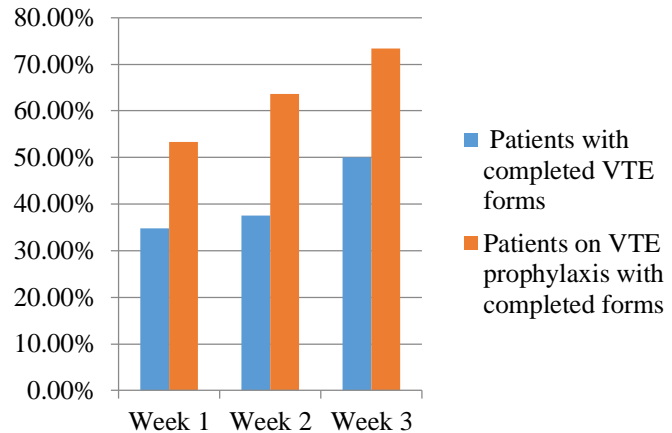
## Aims

- To assess the number of patients who had the local VTE assessment form completed.
- The standard was set that all patients should have VTE forms completed as per NICE guidelines.

## Methods

1. Data was collected retrospectively three times over a period of two weeks.
2. VTE forms in all patients' notes were checked and crossed checked with drug charts to ensure prophylaxis was prescribed.
3. All patients in the ward were included in each cycle of data collection.
4. Patient numbers ranged from 22-24.
5. The data was compiled on an Excel spreadsheet and later formatted on PowerPoint.
6. Interventions were made by two methods;
  - By attaching copies of VTE forms to all elective and emergency admission booklets to ensure it was not overseen.
  - By giving regular verbal reminders to the junior doctors on the ward during handover and huddles.

## Results



1. Results showed that percentage of VTE forms completed for all patients increased from 34.79% to 50%.
2. The percentage of patients requiring prophylaxis with VTE forms completed increased from 53/3% to 73.3%.

## Conclusions

- Significant improvement was noted in the compliance of VTE forms completed with interventions
- It was noted that patients in which VTE prophylaxis was indicated had a higher form completion rates.
- There is still room for improvement, and it is noteworthy that simple measures can improve patient safety and prevent complications.