

Coumadin Blood Tests

The doctor decides how much Coumadin®/warfarin you need by testing your blood. The test is called the INR (International Normalized Ratio) test.



The test measures how fast your blood is clotting and lets the doctor know if your dosage should change. If your blood test is too high, you might be at risk for bleeding problems. If it is too low, you might be at risk for forming clots.



Your doctor has decided on a range on the blood test that is right for you.

Regulating your blood with Coumadin®/warfarin is like balancing a scale. If you take too much, you will increase bleeding; if you take too little, your blood will clot.

Getting your blood within the target range is getting it balanced.

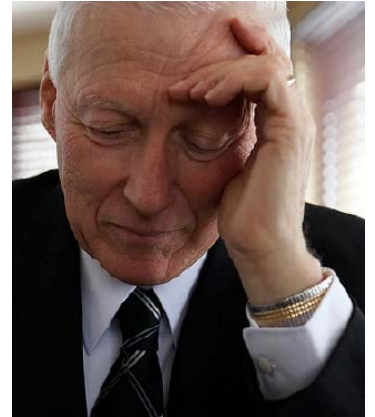
When you first start taking Coumadin®/warfarin, you may have your blood checked often.

Once the blood test is in the target range and the correct dose is reached, this test is done less often.



Because your dose is based on the INR blood test, it is very important that you get your blood tested on the date and at the time that you are told.

Illness can affect your INR blood test and your Coumadin®/warfarin dose. If you become sick with a fever, the flu, or an infection, call your doctor. Also call if you have diarrhea and vomiting lasting more than 1 day.



Know your INR blood test range.

Adapted from AHRQ Pub. No. 08-0028 written by Carla Huber, A.R.N.P., M.S., Cedar Rapids Community Anticoagulation Clinic, Revised August 2008

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