

Outpatient Services

Anticoagulation Clinic

Customized Anticoagulation Monitoring



Anticoagulation Clinic

Carroll Hospital's Anticoagulation Clinic provides ongoing patient education and management for patients taking oral anticoagulants.

The clinic treats patients who are on oral anticoagulants for both short-term conditions and long-term treatment of chronic conditions.

Clinical pharmacists, certified nurse practitioners and registered nurses comprise the staff at the Anticoagulation Clinic to ensure a safe and prescribed level of anticoagulation is maintained. The staff works together with the physician, patient and family members to manage this portion of the patient's care.

What are anticoagulants?

An anticoagulant is a medicinal treatment option for patients that reduces the risk of blood clots forming in certain high risk conditions.

What to expect

On your first visit to the clinic, you will be asked for your health and medical history as well as your current medication list. Please bring all of the medications that you are taking because many medications affect the way the anticoagulant works in your body.

continued ►



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Also, be sure to let the nurse practitioner, pharmacist or nurse know of over-the-counter medicines or supplements that you are taking—such as vitamins and herbal products—because these products also may interact with the anticoagulant.



During each visit to the clinic, a few drops of blood will be taken from your finger to calculate your International Normalized Ratio (INR), which is a measurement that indicates how long it takes for the blood to clot. You will learn the results of this test within minutes. Based on your INR results, the nurse practitioner or pharmacist will discuss any anticoagulant dosage adjustments needed.

The frequency of your visits to the clinic will vary based on your response to the anticoagulant. The initial visit takes about one hour and follow-up visits take 20 to 30 minutes.

Customized treatment plans

Carroll Hospital's Anticoagulation Clinic provides comprehensive managed care, treatment and educational support all in one convenient location. A multidisciplinary team of professionals provides a personalized treatment plan for each patient. In addition, the staff:

- Reviews current prescription medications and supplements for possible drug interactions
- Monitors lab results
- Adjusts dosages as necessary
- Communicates results to you and your physician
- Provides on-going patient education concerning diet/nutrition, medications and emergency procedures

Getting started

Appointments at the Anticoagulation Clinic are by physician referral only. We work with your referring physician to determine a treatment plan for you. Within days of receiving the referral, someone from Outpatient Scheduling will contact you to set up an appointment.

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