

# Antithrombotic/Thrombolytic Reversal Guidelines

**Bold**=Formulary Agent

Drug	Elimination Half-life (T ½)	Removal by Hemodialysis (HD)	Reversal Strategies
Direct Factor Xa Inhibitors, Oral			
Apixaban (Eliquis)	— 12 h (range 7-15) — Prolonged in renal impairment	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prothrombin Complex Concentrates (PCCs)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See order set titled “Oral Anticoagulant Reversal (PCC, Kcentra) coagulation factor Xa (Andexxa), idaruCIzumab (Praxbind)”</li><li>Guideline-directed, one time, fixed-dose PCC (Kcentra) reduces door to treatment time while maintaining hemostatic effectiveness<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If fixed dosing considered, PCC 2000 units for one dose; an additional, one-time dosage of PCC 500 units allowed within 24 hours of first dosage if hemostatic control not achieved, as defined by the treating clinician</li><li>See Prothrombin Complex Concentrate (PCC) Guidelines for Use on online UAB Formulary<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If weight-based dosing requested by provider, administer PCC 50 units/kg (maximum dose of 5000 units)</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li><li>Anti-Xa lab assay only useful for detecting presence of drug and cannot be used to accurately quantitate the level of drug</li></ul>
Edoxaban (Savaysa)	— 10-14 h — Prolonged in renal impairment		
Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)	— Infants < 6 months: 1.6 h — Infants ≥ 6 months and Children < 2 years: 1.9 h — Children ≥ 2 years: 3 h — Adolescents: 4.2 h — Healthy adults: 5-9 h — Elderly: 11-13 h — Prolonged in renal impairment		
Factor Xa Inhibitors, Parenteral			
Fondaparinux (Arixtra)	— 17-21 h — Prolonged in renal impairment	Unlikely to be of value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For uncontrollable bleeding:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consider rFVIIa (NovoSeven RT) 90 mcg/kg</li></ul></li><li>Anti-Xa lab assay (specific to fondaparinux)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consideration: this is a send out lab and results will be delayed</li></ul></li></ul>
Direct Thrombin Inhibitors, Oral			
Dabigatran (Pradaxa)	— Adults: 12-17 h — Pediatrics: 12-14 h (capsules), 9-11 h (oral pellets) — Elderly: 14-17 h — Significantly prolonged in renal impairment	Yes: ~60% Likely rebound upon cessation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Specific reversal agent:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Idarucizumab (Praxbind) 5 grams IV for one dose (supplied as two separate 2.5 gram vials from pharmacy)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Although data is limited, can consider re-dosing at 5 grams for refractory bleeding</li><li>May consider fixed-dose PCC (Kcentra) in place of or with idarucizumab</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>Consider HD for patients with refractory bleeding or especially in those with impaired renal function</li><li>Thrombin time can be used to assess presence of drug in circulation</li></ul>
Direct Thrombin Inhibitors, Parenteral			
Bivalirudin (Angiomax)	— Adults: 25 min — Pediatrics: 15-18 min — Significantly prolonged in renal impairment (34-57 min)	Yes: 25%; HD generally not practical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Turn off the infusion</li><li>If concern for clearance of bivalirudin, may consider fixed-dose PCC (Kcentra)</li><li>aPTT lab assay is used to assess the degree of anticoagulation</li></ul>
Argatroban	— 39-51 min — Prolonged in hepatic impairment	Yes: 20%; HD	

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		generally not practical													
Heparins/Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH)															
<b>Enoxaparin (Lovenox)</b>	— 4.5-7 h — Prolonged in renal impairment	Unlikely to be of value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Protamine partially neutralizes anti-Xa activity (~60% to 75%) Reversal guidance for protamine with LWMH agents (for treatment-dosed LMWH in the presence of clinically significant bleeding)</li></ul>												
<b>Dalteparin (Fragmin)</b>	— 3-5 h — Prolonged in renal impairment		<b>Time since last dose</b>	<b>Dose of protamine for each 1 mg of enoxaparin or 100 units of dalteparin</b>											
			≤ 8 h	1 mg	Maximum of 50 mg in 10 min period										
			8-12 h	0.5 mg											
			> 12 h	Not likely to be useful											
<b>Unfractionated Heparin, IV</b>	— ~ 1.5 h (T ½ of the anticoagulant effect)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Protamine provides rapid reversal of anticoagulant effects (measured by anti-Xa activity)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Only heparin given in preceding several hours needs to be considered when calculating dose of protamine (e.g., the previous 2-3 h if given as continuous infusion)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If required, 1 mg of protamine will neutralize ~100 units of heparin – maximum dose of 50 mg<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If aPTT remains elevated, consider repeating 0.5 mg per 100 units of heparin – maximum dose 25 mg</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>○ Additional protamine administration may be necessary following cardiac surgery due to heparin rebound following initial protamine reversal in the OR. Usual dose range is 25-50 mg</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Reversal guidance for protamine with IV heparin boluses, if indicated:</p> <table><tr><td><b>Time since last dose</b></td><td colspan="2"><b>Dose of protamine for each 100 units of heparin</b></td></tr><tr><td>Immediate</td><td>1 mg</td><td rowspan="3">Maximum of 50 mg in a 10 min period</td></tr><tr><td>30 minutes to ≤ 2 hours</td><td>0.5 mg</td></tr><tr><td>&gt; 2 hours up to 3 hours</td><td>0.25 mg</td></tr></table>			<b>Time since last dose</b>	<b>Dose of protamine for each 100 units of heparin</b>		Immediate	1 mg	Maximum of 50 mg in a 10 min period	30 minutes to ≤ 2 hours	0.5 mg	> 2 hours up to 3 hours	0.25 mg
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Immediate	1 mg	Maximum of 50 mg in a 10 min period													
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> 2 hours up to 3 hours	0.25 mg														
<b>Unfractionated Heparin, subcutaneous</b>	— ~ 1.5 h (T ½ of the anticoagulant effect)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Reversal of prophylactic subcutaneous heparin is generally not recommended; however, may consider if aPTT significantly prolonged and patient has clinically significant bleeding<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ If required, 1 mg of protamine will neutralize ~100 units of heparin – maximum dose of 50 mg</li></ul></li></ul>												
Vitamin K Antagonists															

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Drug	Elimination Half-life (T ½)	Removal by Hemodialysis (HD)	Reversal Strategies
<b>Warfarin (Coumadin)</b>	— Single dose terminal: ~1 week — Effective T ½ = 20-60 h	No	<p>Based on 2022 Chest Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any major/life-threatening bleeding<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fixed-dose PCC (Kcentra) 2000 units AND Vitamin K 10 mg by slow IV injection (mixed in minimum 50 mL and given over a rate not exceeding 1 mg/min [i.e., 10 mg over 10 min])<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An additional, one-time dosage of PCC 500 units allowed within 24 hours of first dosage if hemostatic control not achieved, as defined by the treating clinician</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul> <p>Guidance for utilization of vitamin K in the presence of elevated INR and non-life-threatening bleeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>INR above therapeutic range but &lt; 4.5 and no evidence of bleeding: routine administration of vitamin K is not recommended</li><li>INR between 4.5 and 10 and no evidence of bleeding: suggest against the routine use of vitamin K, but if administered, one dose of vitamin K PO 1 – 2.5 mg is recommended</li><li>INR &gt; 10 and no evidence of bleeding: suggest oral vitamin K be administered; one dose PO 2 – 5 mg is recommended (may administer a second dose if INR recheck remains elevated)</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minor bleeding: vitamin K PO 2.5 – 5 mg (with possible repeat dose at 24h)</li></ul>
Thrombolytics			
<b>Alteplase</b>	— Initial: ~5 min — Following 90 min infusion: 27-46 min	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discontinue thrombolytic agent</li><li>Thrombolytic-associated symptomatic intracranial hemorrhage<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consider cryoprecipitate (10 units initial dose; 1 bag = 5 units) to a goal fibrinogen &gt; 150 mg/dL in patients who have received thrombolytic agent in the previous 24 hours</li></ul></li><li>If cryoprecipitate is contraindicated, consider aminocaproic acid 4-5 g IV over 1 hour, then a continuous infusion at a rate of 1 g/h for ~8 hours or until the bleeding is controlled, OR tranexamic acid 10-15 mg/kg IV over 20 mins – usual dose is 1000 mg IV once over 20 mins</li><li>Consider platelet transfusion for platelet counts &lt; 100k</li></ul>
<b>Tenecteplase</b>	— Initial: 20-24 min — Terminal: 90-130 min		
Antiplatelets, Oral and Parenteral			
<b>Aspirin</b>	— 3.5-4.5 h	Yes; unlikely to be of value if not for salicylate toxicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Desmopressin IV 0.4 mg/kg IV once may be beneficial in reversal of aspirin, clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor, naproxen, or ibuprofen</li><li>Platelet transfusion is recommended ONLY if sending for a neurosurgical procedure for ICH related to aspirin or an ADP inhibitor (clopidogrel, prasugrel, or ticagrelor) – not NSAIDs<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Platelet pheresis 1 Unit STAT</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>ADP Inhibitors (e.g., clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor)</b>	— 6 h (clopidogrel) — ~7 h; range 2-15 h (prasugrel) — 7 h (ticagrelor)	No	

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Drug	Elimination Half-life (T <sub>1/2</sub> )	Removal by Hemodialysis (HD)	Reversal Strategies
<b>NSAIDs (e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen)</b>	— ~2 h (ibuprofen) — 2-4 h (naproxen)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When possible, test platelet function prior to platelet transfusion – not recommended for normal platelet function or documented antiplatelet resistance</li> <li>Platelet transfusion NOT recommended for GP 2b/3a inhibitors (eptifibatide, tirofiban) or non-ADP inhibitors (anagrelide, cilostazol, dipyridamole, and vorapaxar)</li> </ul>
<b>GP 2b/3a inhibitors (eptifibatide, tirofiban)</b>	— 2.5 h (eptifibatide)	Yes; ~73-83% removed after 1 h	
<b>Non-ADP inhibitors (e.g., anagrelide, cilostazol, dipyridamole, vorapaxar)</b>	— 1.3 h (anagrelide) — 11-13 h (cilostazol) — 10 h (dipyridamole)	No	
<b>Cangrelor (Kengreal)</b>	— 3-6 min	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn off the infusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon discontinuation of cangrelor, platelet function rapidly returns to baseline (within 1 hour); however, residual activity from other concurrently administered antiplatelet agents (e.g., aspirin, clopidogrel, ticagrelor) may persist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinicians should assess the overall antiplatelet burden and evaluate the need for additional reversal strategies</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## References:

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