

October 13, 2020

COM-2020-080

Dear provider of pharmaceutical services,

The manufacturing of all strengths of Coumadin (warfarin sodium) tablets has been discontinued. As announced by Bristol-Myers Squibb, Coumadin's manufacturer, the discontinuation is due to an unexpected manufacturing issue, **not** because of safety or efficacy issues.

Pharmacies can continue to dispense any Coumadin in stock. However, when pharmacies and suppliers run out, the branded drug product will no longer be available. Healthcare providers will need to consider alternatives, switch patients currently receiving treatment with Coumadin, and closely monitor patients for tolerance and response after the switch.

Below we include some recommendation that provider of pharmaceutical services can follow to contribute to a smooth transition:

- Notify affected patients and prescriber physicians that Coumadin is no longer manufactured.
- If the original prescription for Coumadin specified DAW 1 or "do not substitute," inform the patient that he/she will need to get a new prescription or contact the patient's prescriber physician to request a new prescription.
- If the original prescription for Coumadin did not specify DAW 1 or "do not substitute," but the generic will be dispensed for the first time, notify the prescriber physician of the change.
- Remember that warfarin is a "high-alert" medication and errors can be harmful or even fatal, and take extra precautions to prevent errors.
- Apply a "Generic equivalent" label when patients switch from brand-name Coumadin to generic warfarin. A "Generic equivalent" label helps notify patients that the generic may look different but works the same as the brand.

PharmPix is committed to the health and wellness of our members. It is our priority to offer high-quality services and support practices for health promotion and diseases prevention. If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us at 787-522-5252, extension 137. In addition, know that you can access our recent communications at our providers' portal: <https://www.pharmpix.com/providers/>.

Regards,

PharmPix Clinical Department

References:

- Center, T. (2020). Notify Patients That Brand-Name Coumadin Is Discontinued. Pharmacist.therapeuticresearch.com. Retrieved October 9 2020, from <https://pharmacist.therapeuticresearch.com/Content/Articles/PL/2020/Sep/Notify-Patients-That-Brand-Name-Coumadin-Is-Discontinued>.
- Arrhythmia Alliance Group. AF Association - United States of America. (2020). Retrieved October 9 2020, from <https://www.hearhythmalliance.org/afa/us/news/discontinuation-of-sale-and-distribution-of-coumadin-warfarin-sodium-tablets-for-oral-use#:~:text=Bristol%2DMyers%20Squibb%20announced%20that,to%20an%20unexpected%20manufacturing%20issue>.

