

Community
Anticoagulation
Therapy
Clinic

DOCUMENT TITLE	NUMBER	REV
Initiation of Warfarin Guideline	6502CATC	2

PURPOSE (outline the intent or objective of the document)

To outline the guideline for use when starting patients on warfarin.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS (provide clear understanding to words, abbreviations that may be ambiguous)

Community Anticoagulation Therapy Clinic- CAT Clinic
 Low Molecular Weight Heparin – LMWH
 Unfractionated Heparin – UFH

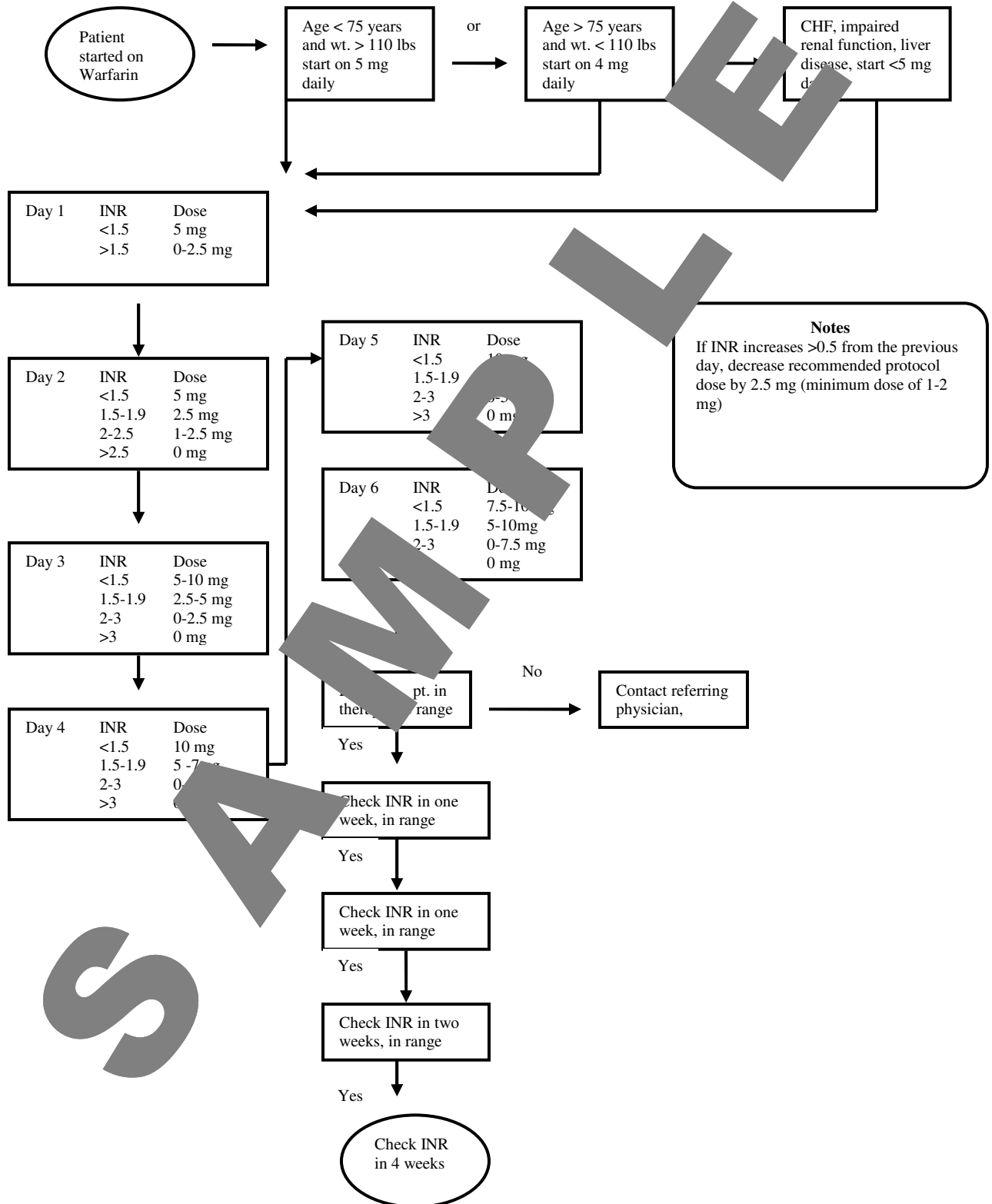
PROCEDURE/FLOWCHART (describe the steps in which the objectives are achieved; include statements, to the extent necessary, that explain the why, what, when, where, who and how)

1. The dosing of warfarin must be individualized according to the patient's response to the drug as reflected by the INR.
2. Initiation with doses of 5 mg or less daily are recommended, with smaller doses indicated for the elderly or debilitated patient.
3. Warfarin may begin concurrently with LMWH or UFH and should be overlapped for 4 to 5 days.
4. During the initiation phase, any adjustment of warfarin while the patient is on LMWH or UFH will require orders from the referring physician.
5. When the desired INR (e.g. 2-3 or 2.5-3.5) is achieved, LMWH or UFH may be discontinued.

See Flow Chart

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RECORDS (results or evidence of work performed)

Reference: American College of Chest Physicians Consensus Conference on Antithrombotic and Thrombolytic Therapy. *Chest*, September, 2004 Supplement.

REVISION HISTORY			
Rev	Description of Change	Approval	Date
0	Initial document	J. Levett, MD	12/16/05
1	Changed protocol to guideline	J. Levett, MD	2/24/06
2	Deleted "for two consecutive INRs" in step 5 of the procedure	J. Levett, MD	2/23/07

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SAMPLE