Warfarin: Signs and Symptoms of Bleeding and Clotting

Warfarin (Coumadin) is a drug commonly used to treat or prevent blood clots. In some cases, though, it can put you at risk for severe bleeding. Please watch for these signs so that you can get care quickly if bleeding or clotting occurs.

Signs and Symptoms of Bleeding

If you take warfarin, call your doctor at once if you have …
- Bright red blood in your stool
- Blood in your urine (red or brown colored)
- Uncontrolled bleeding from your nose or gums
- Cuts that will not stop bleeding
- Heavy menstrual bleeding (changing a sanitary napkin or tampon within two hours)
- Bad bruising (bruises that seem to pool under the skin or that do not improve within two weeks)

Go to the closest Emergency Department at once if you have …
- Dark, tarry stools
- Blood while coughing or vomiting (red or resembling coffee grounds)
- A hard fall or hit to the head
- Any type of accident, especially one with a vehicle (car, motorcycle, bicycle, boat)

Signs and Symptoms of a Blood Clot

A clot can cause lasting damage or death if not treated. Clots can form in veins, arteries or in the lungs.

Go to the closest Emergency Department at once if you have …
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Redness, swelling, heat or pain in any limb
- Discoloration (blue/purple), cold or pain in any limb

Signs and Symptoms of a Stroke

A stroke occurs when a clot blocks the flow of blood to the brain. Get treatment right away to reduce brain damage. Strokes can be fatal.

Call 911 at once if you have …
- Dizziness, vision changes or a sudden, severe headache
- Numbness or weakness in any limb
- Slurred speech or difficulty speaking

Act FAST to recognize the warning signs of stroke:
- **FACE:** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- **ARMS:** Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **SPEECH:** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?
- **TIME:** If you observe any of these signs, call 911 right away.