Table 6

Direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC) prescribing

	Dabigatran	Rivaroxiban	Apixaban	Edoxaban
Dose	150 mg BD	20 mg OD	5 mg BD	60 mg OD
Reduced dose	110 mg BD if any of: - age ≥ 75 years or - CrCl 30-50 ml/min	15 mg OD if: - CrCl 30-49 ml/min	2.5 mg BD if at least 2 of: - age ≥ 80 years - weight ≤ 60 kg - creatinine ≥ 133 µmo/l - CrCl 15-30 ml/min	30 mg OD If any: - CrCl 15-50 ml/min - weight ≤ 60 kg - P-glycoprotein inhibitors
Contraindication	CrCl < 30 ml/min	CrCl < 30 ml/min	CrCl < 15 ml/min	CrCl < 15 ml/min
Food interactions	No interaction (Taken with water)	Taken with food	No interaction	No interaction
Reversal agent	Idarucizumab	Andexanet alfa	Andexanet alfa	Not licensed

Monitoring
- Routine clotting tests are unreliable and cannot inform anticoagulant effect
- Yearly blood test to monitor Hb, liver and renal function
- Assess compliance and adverse effects every 3 months

Switching from warfarin
- if INR < 2: start DOAC
- if INR 2-2.5: start DOAC the next day
- if INR >2.5: recheck INR in 1-3 days

Missed dose
- OD: can be taken up to 12 hr from missed dose
- BD: can be taken up to 6 hr from missed dose

Double dose
- OD: no change to dosing regimen (24 hr interval)
- BD: skip next dose (24 hr interval)

Stopping DOAC before elective surgery
- minimal bleeding risk: uninterrupted
- low bleeding risk: 24 hr
- high bleeding risk: 48-72 hr (depending on thromboembolic vs bleeding risk)

Preoperative bridging with LMWH or heparin is not recommended

Restarting DOAC after elective surgery
- minimal bleeding risk: 6-8 hr
- low bleeding risk: 8-24 hr
- high bleeding risk: 48-72 hr (depending on thromboembolic vs bleeding risk, may require post-operative thromboprophylaxis)

Direct current cardioversion
- DOACs are safe (similar thromboembolic risk as warfarin)

Coronary artery disease
- Combination of DOAC and antiplatelets is safer than vitamin K antagonists and antiplatelets
- After 1 year of PCI (elective or acute coronary syndrome) DOAC monotherapy is recommended

CrCl = creatinine clearance LMWH = low molecular weight heparin
PCI = percutaneous coronary intervention