



Eliquis vs. Xarelto: Considerations for Interchangeability & Cost Savings

Introduction

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs), such as rivaroxaban and apixaban, have a wide range of indications, with their primary use being the prevention or treatment of thromboembolic disorders. With similar mechanisms of action, indications, and safety profiles, consideration of their interchangeability offers opportunities for cost savings while maintaining efficacy.

Drug Profile

	Eliquis (apixaban)	Xarelto (rivaroxaban)
Mechanism of Action	Direct, selective, and reversible inhibition of Factor Xa, to prevent blood clots	Direct, selective, and reversible inhibition of Factor Xa, to prevent blood clots
Indications	A-fib, VTE, DVT, PE	A-fib, VTE, DVT, PE, CVD prophylaxis, ACS
Common Adult Dosing	5 mg by mouth twice daily	20 mg by mouth once daily
Boxed Warnings	Premature d/c of apixaban increases risk of thrombotic events, Spinal/Epidural hematoma	Premature d/c of rivaroxaban increases risk of thrombotic events, Spinal/Epidural hematoma
Pearls	Generally considered to have a decreased risk of stroke or bleeding in comparison to rivaroxaban	

Interchangeability

- **Clinical Efficacy:** Both medications have shown comparable clinical efficacy for the treatment of thromboembolic prevention/treatment.
- **Safety:** Evidence suggests a potential lower bleed risk associated with Eliquis in comparison to Xarelto. Monitoring parameters and dose changes must be considered before switching from Eliquis to Xarelto.
- **Use cases:** Eliquis and Xarelto share most of the same indications, with a few exceptions of CVD prophylaxis in certain circumstances with Xarelto.

Optimizing Patient Care by Switching from Eliquis to Xarelto

Supply (days)	Eliquis (apixaban)	Xarelto (rivaroxaban)	Cost saving/script
30	\$441.96	\$423.43	\$18.53
90	\$1,302.82	\$1,212.09	\$90.73
180	\$1,675.59	\$1,614.30	\$61.29

Data obtained from Aetna, United, Medicare, and Mercy Care claims data, comparing the average price of 30-, 90-, and 180-day supplies of Eliquis vs. Xarelto.