ST. FRANCIS 24/7 CALL CENTER: (321) 269-4240

St. Francis REFLECTIONS® Hospice
Established 1977 • Licensed 1990

Anticoagulants (Blood Thinners)

Indications for Use:

- Prevent blood clots and strokes in high risk patients (ie. patient with atrial fibrillation, DVTs, or after certain procedures.

Medication Examples:

- **Warfarin** (Coumadin): Typically requires regular blood monitoring (INR).
- **Heparin**
- **Apixaban** (Eliquis)
- **Rivaroxaban** (Xarelto)

Common Side Effects:

- Bleeding
- Bruising
- Upset stomach

Tips:

- Watch for unexplained bruising or prolonged bleeding. Monitor for signs of internal bleed such as dark stools or red urine. **Report symptoms to your hospice team immediately.**
- Observe response to medication daily, noting any new or worsening side effects.
- **Administration: Take medication at the same time daily (if able).** Tablets should be swallowed whole. For injections- rotate sites to prevent irritation.
- Be mindful of interactions with other medications, especially over-the-counter drugs like aspirin or NSAIDs.
- **Storage:** Store in a safe place, away from heat, sunlight, and moisture. Keep all medicines out of reach of children or pets.

St. Francis Reflections is always available to assist with any questions or concerns 24/7

321-269-4240