



# NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

*the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West*

## **Coumadin®**

**Generic name:** warfarin

**Drug type:** Warfarin is an anti-coagulant/anti-clotting medication given to treat or prevent blood clots.

### **How this drug is given:**

- Coumadin is a tablet given by mouth.
- Take at about the same time every day, preferably in the evening (around 5pm).
- Do not take double or extra doses to make up for a missed dose.

### **Medications that should not be taken while on Coumadin:**

Other medications given to prevent or dissolve blood clots; Aspirin; St. John's Wort

### **Side effects:**

Important things to remember about the side effects of Coumadin:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

### **The following side effects are common for patients receiving Coumadin:**

- Easy bruising
- Rash

### **These are less common side effects for patients receiving Coumadin:**

- Back or stomach pain
- Chest pain or fast heartbeat
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Headaches

### **When to contact your health care provider:**

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Severe back or stomach pain
- Chest pain or fast or irregular heartbeat

- Difficulty breathing, talking or wheezing
- Painful blue or purple toes

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period)
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools or urine
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Heavy menstrual bleeding
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes

**Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.**