Atrial Fibrillation
Counselling Support Tool
Rivaroxaban 15mg
Your new tablet is Rivaroxaban 15mg
The brand name is Xarelto
You have been prescribed Rivaroxaban 15mg because you have Atrial Fibrillation - a type of irregular heartbeat.
Atrial fibrillation is a major cause of stroke, particularly in older people.
Atrial fibrillation can cause blood clots. Blood clots can travel to the brain and cause a stroke.
Rivaroxaban stops most strokes caused by atrial fibrillation.
Most people will take Rivaroxaban for the rest of their lives.
Your GP will do a blood test a few times a year.

This is less often than with Warfarin.
Take Rivaroxaban ONCE a day
Swallow whole with food
Never miss tablets
When will you take your Rivaroxaban?
Rivaroxaban is short lived in the body
Do not miss any tablets
Rivaroxaban makes it take longer to stop bleeding
If you notice any bleeding when you use the toilet or if your poo looks black (tarry) tell your doctor the same day.

If you have lots of bleeding seek immediate medical help.
If you are bleeding badly and it doesn’t stop, seek immediate medical help.

Explain that you are taking Rivaroxaban.
If you hit your head badly seek immediate medical help so that you can be checked for internal bleeding. Explain that you are taking Rivaroxaban.
If you hit any part of your body badly, seek immediate medical help so that you can be checked for internal bleeding.

Explain that you are taking Rivaroxaban.
Always keep your anticoagulant alert card with you
All foods are okay

Do not drink lots of alcohol – stay within the recommended limits
Tell people – Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist, Dentist that you are taking Rivaroxaban
Ask your Doctor about any new medicines, including over the counter medicines, vitamins and herbal remedies

Paracetamol is OK
Acknowledgements

Based on original content by:

- Satinder Bhandal, Consultant Pharmacist Anticoagulation, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

- Katrina Clarkson, Principal Speech and Language Therapist, Regional Hyperacute Rehabilitation Unit, Northwick Park Hospital

- Nina Barnett, Consultant Pharmacist, Older People, Medicines Use and Safety Division, NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service and London North West Healthcare NHS Trust