Fondaparinux (Arixtra®)
(A Pentasaccharide Anticoagulant, Factor Xa Inhibitor)

Fondaparinux (U.S. brand name: Arixtra®) is a medication used to control how blood clots. Your doctor has prescribed fondaparinux for you either to take as long as you need to have your blood “thinned” or as a “bridge” until another drug called warfarin (also known as Coumadin® or Jantoven®) has time to work.

Although fondaparinux is sometimes called a blood thinner, it really does not thin the blood. Instead, it slows the body’s ability to make a blood clot.

If you have questions about or problems with fondaparinux injections, or you are experiencing unusual symptoms, call the person monitoring your fondaparinux dose:

☐ This person is your doctor: ___________________ Telephone: ______________

☐ AMS is your warfarin manager, Telephone: (617) 726-2768

Side Effects Of Fondaparinux
There is a risk of bleeding with fondaparinux therapy. If you cut yourself, you may notice that it takes a longer time to stop bleeding. You may also notice that you bruise more easily. You will probably have bruising or pain around the area where you are receiving the injections. This is normal.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY IF:

- Bleeding coming from your mouth, nose or gums
- Blood in your sputum (spit) or you are coughing up blood
- Bruising that is worse than usual, occurs for no reason at all, or is painful
- Sudden pain and/or swelling
- Red or black (tarry) stools
- Red or dark brown urine
- Bleeding from your vagina or a very heavy menstrual flow
- You have an unusual headache or problems with thinking or speaking
- Any weakness or numbness on your face, arms or legs
- Bleeding or oozing from a new surgical incision
- A bad fall or injury, especially if you hit your head
- Drainage, redness or pus from an injection site
Fondaparinux Injections

- Fondaparinux is only available in an injection form. The manufacturer supplies syringes that are color-coded based on the amount of fondaparinux in each syringe.
- It is injected once a day and is usually started in the hospital
- Your dose is based on your medical condition and how much you weigh

Your fondaparinux dose is: ___________________________

How and When To Take Fondaparinux

- Fondaparinux is given by injection just under the skin (called a sub-Q or subcutaneous injection) into the fatty tissue. Do not inject into the muscle.
- To avoid loss of drug, do not expel air bubbles from the pre-filled syringe.
- To minimize injection site bruising, rotate where the shots are given. Acceptable sites are: the U-shaped area below and at least 2 inches away from belly button. Or if you have help, left or right backsides of abdominal wall.
- Do not rub the site after injecting.
- At home, you, a family member or a visiting nurse will inject the drug.
- Your injections should occur at about the same time every day.
- Store your fondaparinux syringes at room temperature. Keep the syringes away from heat and direct light.
- Do NOT use the syringes after the expiration date.
- Keep syringes out of reach of children.

If You Forget To Take Your Fondaparinux

- If you remember within 12 hours of your scheduled time – inject the dose and continue on your normal schedule.
- If you remember beyond 12 hours of your scheduled time, please contact AMS or your prescribing physician. Do not inject missed dose. Do not take a double dose.

Monitoring

- Patients taking fondaparinux should have a complete blood count and kidney function tests done before starting and as needed after that.
- If you also take warfarin, you will need additional blood tests.
- When the warfarin is working properly, your doctor or the AMS staff will let you know when you can stop the injections.
**Special Diets**

- We recommend that you eat a healthy balanced diet; a special diet is not needed.
- If allowed by your doctor, limit your alcohol intake to no more than two standard drinks a day.

**Important Facts to Know When Taking Fondaparinux**

- Take only the drugs that your doctor has prescribed.
- If you see another doctor or dentist, tell them you are taking fondaparinux.
- When filling a new prescription, always ask the pharmacist to make certain that it is safe to take the new medication with fondaparinux.
- DO NOT take any over-the-counter medicines, herbal products or dietary supplements unless you have asked your doctor first.
- DO NOT take aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil® or Motrin®), naproxen (Aleve®) or similar products unless prescribed by your doctor.
- Always check the labels of over-the-counter drugs for aspirin (also called ASA, or acetylsalicylic acid). Many pain relievers and cold medicines (like Alka-Seltzer® or Pepto Bismol™) have aspirin in them.
- You may take aspirin free pain relievers like acetaminophen (Tylenol®).
- Please carry some form of drug alert identification while taking fondaparinux.

**Fondaparinux and Pregnancy/Breast-Feeding**

- Let your doctor know if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Fondaparinux should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.
- Let your doctor know if you are breast-feeding. It is not known if fondaparinux affects a mother’s milk and should be used with caution.

Note: Please contact Lynn Oertel, CNS for questions about this instructional material. Reviewed 4/2012.