NORTHLAND PRIMARY HEALTH ORGANISATIONS

Suspected Deep Vein Thrombosis Algorithm

EXCLUSIONS

- **Pregnant**
- **Suspected Pulmonary Embolus**
- **Patient is acutely unwell**

Patient presents with symptoms of

SUSPECTED DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

(Please note: lower limb only)

SPECIAL CASES

Risk score not required:

- **Under 18yrs age**
- **Active malignancy**
- **Superficial thrombophlebitis with high clinical suspicion of DVT**

Apply Primary Care Decision Rule (see investigation advice)
PLUS d dimer (see overleaf for full details)

Low score ≤ 3 plus negative D Dimer

DVT UNLIKELY

High score ≥4 (the higher the score the more likely DVT present)

NO DVT ON USS

If no DVT pt may still have significant risk of DVT.

RISK OF DVT IS LOW
CONSIDER:

- Clinical follow up within 7 days
- Warn pt if symptoms worsen to immediately contact GP
- Phone review at 3 months
- Give patient information handout

IMPORTANT ADVICE TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING LOW CLINICAL SCORE:

- Despite negative tests the risk of DVT may still persist for up to 3 months.
- Use clinical judgement if DVT strongly suspected but tests are negative.
- Seek specialist advice if concerned.
- Watch for change in clinical symptoms especially increased leg swelling/pain, chest pain or SOB.

REFER FOR ULTRASOUND SCAN (USS)
Patients in Whangarei – refer directly to radiology dept, ext 7591
Elsewhere in Northland contact Primary Options.
(If unable to get scan on the same day consider stat dose Enoxaparin (clexane)**OR** refer to hospital)- see advice in DVT section on website re Enoxaparin.

DVT CONFIRMED

Patient in Whangarei
REFER PT TO ED
Rest of Northland
Please see notes Pg 36 for guidelines for treatment of DVT.

DISCLAIMER: This guideline is intended to assist clinical decision making and provide General Practitioners with guidance on the appropriate use of the Primary Options Programme Northland services. It is not entirely inclusive or exclusive of all methods of reasonable care. It should not replace clinical judgement in managing each individual patient.