Inappropriate dosing of direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) is not uncommon in treating AFib patients. Nearly 60% of reduced-dose DOAC regimens do not follow Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommendations. Inappropriate dosing may be associated with increased risk for cardiovascular hospitalization and/or adverse events like bleeding and all-cause mortality. Underdosing of DOACs may increase stroke risk, while not reducing rates of major bleeding.

When prescribing DOACs for AFib patients, clinicians should adjust DOAC dose based on FDA prescribing guides summarized in Treatment Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Apixaban</th>
<th>Dabigatran</th>
<th>Edoxaban</th>
<th>Rivaroxaban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Usual Dose</strong></td>
<td>5mg BID</td>
<td>150mg BID*</td>
<td>60mg daily (Cl if CrCl ≥95 mL/min)**</td>
<td>20mg daily with food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reduced Dose</strong></td>
<td>2.5mg BID</td>
<td>75mg BID</td>
<td>30mg daily</td>
<td>15mg daily with food</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indications for Reduction**
1. If 2 of 3 factors present: Age ≥80 years, SCr ≥1.5 mg/dL, Weight ≤60 kg
2. Coadministered with combined P-gp and strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., ketoconazole, itraconazole, ritonavir)

**Comments**
- Those with SCr >2.5 or CrCl <25 mL/min excluded from ARISTOTLE trial†
- Those with CrCl <30 mL/min excluded from RE-LY trial†
- Those with CrCl <30 mL/min excluded from ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48 trial†
- Those with CrCl <30 mL/min excluded from ROCKET-AF trial†

Consult package inserts for specific use/dosing recommendations with concomitant CYP3A4 and/or P-gp inducers or inhibitors. There are additional drug interactions in which DOACs should be avoided.

**Prevent Potential Errors**
- Implement functional hard-stop drug alerts during order entry in electronic medical record.
- Establish an anticoagulant management service program.
- Adopt continuous education programs for all providers on proper DOAC dosing strategies.
- Create pocket cards for a quick reference on DOAC prescribing.