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VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLISM RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL EVALUATION (B4), Selina Aguilar, Tara Arriola, Jeffery Fisher, Yvonne Dalton-Etheridge. New Mexico VA Health Care System, Albuquerque, NM (Selina.Aguilar@va.gov) IRB approval pending

Despite consensus guidelines on the use and benefit of venous thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis, underutilization is seen in medical patients. The use of computer alert programs in hospitalized patients has shown to increase physician use of VTE prophylaxis and reduce the rates of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. The NMVAHCS instituted the VTE Risk Assessment Template in March 2008 to be completed by providers upon admission to inpatient units. The template directs providers to calculate patient risk score by listing high risks (4 points), moderate risks (2 points), and low risks (1 point). If the risk score is greater than or equal to four, prophylaxis is recommended unless a contraindication is present. The template also allows providers to order labs and VTE prophylaxis with unfractionated heparin or low molecular weight heparin, and/or mechanical prophylaxis. The VTE Risk Assessment Template is a new tool to the NMVAHCS and has not been assessed for proper use and efficacy. A retrospective chart review will be conducted on patients admitted to the general medicine units over approximately 30 days. Investigators will review each note to evaluate if prophylaxis is given appropriately to patients based on their risk factors and contraindications. Findings will be reported as the proportion of cases that received appropriate prophylaxis. The results will be discussed.