

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

HSS(MD)33/2008

For action:

Chief Executives HSC Trusts
Medical Directors HSC Trusts for cascade to:
*Associate Medical Directors, Clinical Directors,
Heads of Governance*
Directors of Nursing HSC Trusts
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority for cascade to:
Independent hospitals and clinics

For information:

All General Practitioners
Directors of Public Health HSS Boards
Directors of Nursing of HSS Boards
Head of School of Medicine & Dentistry, QUB
Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery, QUB
Head of School of Nursing, UU
Staff Tutor of Nursing, Open University.
Safety Forum

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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HSS(MD)33/2008
Date: 1 October 2008

Dear Colleagues

PUBLICATION OF A VTE RISK ASSESSMENT

We wrote to you in April 2007 (HSS(MD)10/2007) about the recommendations of the expert working group on the prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in hospitalised patients. One of the main recommendations was that medical patients should, as part of a risk assessment, be considered for thromboprophylaxis measures. A smaller national implementation working group was set up to take this forward and their VTE risk assessment has now been made available.

It is based on known risk factors from existing guidance and evidence, and it is intended for use on hospitalised patients, having the potential to prevent avoidable deaths from VTE. The risk assessment is available to download at www.dh.gov.uk/vte

We strongly commend the use of VTE risk assessment and clinicians may find this particular tool helpful.

Yours sincerely

Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer

Mr Martin Bradley
Chief Nursing Officer

This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.