**STEP 1**
Assess Patient Risk

- **HIGH RISK**
  - Hip or knee arthroplasty
  - Major trauma
  - Hip fracture surgery
  - Other surgery with prior VTE and/or active cancer
  - Major surgery* age > 40 years

- **LOW RISK**
  - All other surgery

*Major surgery: intra-abdominal surgery or any surgery > 45 minutes duration

**STEP 2**
Assess for Anticoagulant Prophylaxis

- **NO**
  - No anticoagulant

- **YES**
  - Prescribe: enoxaparin 40mg daily or dalteparin 5000U daily or for orthopaedic surgery fondaparinux 2.5mg daily (commence 6-8 hrs post-op) Duration 5-10 days EXCEPT 28-35 days for hip arthroplasty

**STEP 3**
Assess Mechanical Prophylaxis

- **NO**
  - Apply IPC and/or GCS

- **YES**
  - Observe closely for VTE

- **NO**
  - Apply GCS and/or IPC

- **YES**
  - Observe closely for VTE

- **NO**
  - Consider GCS

- **YES**
  - Observe closely for VTE

**Contraindications to anticoagulant prophylaxis**
- Active bleeding / high risk of bleeding eg. haemophilia, thrombocytopenia (platelet count <50 x 10^9/L), history of GI bleeding
- Severe hepatic disease (INR > 1.3) / adverse reaction to heparin
- On current anticoagulation
- Other eg. very high falls risk and palliative management

**Contraindications to mechanical prophylaxis**
- Severe peripheral arterial disease: Recent skin graft
- Severe peripheral neuropathy: Severe leg deformity

- LMWH - Low Molecular Weight Heparin
- LDUH - Low Dose Unfractionated Heparin
- IPC - Intermittent Pneumatic Compression
- GCS - Graduated Compression Stockings
- VTE - Venous Thromboembolism

**Additional VTE Risk Factors**
- immobility, thrombophilia, oestrogen therapy, pregnancy or puerperium, active inflammation, strong family history of VTE and/or obesity.

**Contraindications to mechanical prophylaxis**
- Severe peripheral arterial disease: Recent skin graft
- Severe peripheral neuropathy: Severe leg deformity

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**Relevant definitions**
- *VTE Risk Factors*
  - immobility, thrombophilia, oestrogen therapy, pregnancy or puerperium, active inflammation, strong family history of VTE and/or obesity.

**Surgical VTE Prophylaxis Guide**
For ALL patients undergoing surgery or when surgery is imminent