

New state-wide eLearning modules to improve doctors' knowledge of venous thromboembolism prevention

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Background

Hospital associated Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) is largely preventable but accounts for almost 10% of all hospital deaths¹. Internationally, electronic clinical decision support tools have effectively reduced harm from VTE. The NSW Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) in collaboration with eHealth NSW developed an adult inpatient electronic VTE risk assessment tool (e-RAT) in the electronic medical record (eMR). With hospitals requesting interactive, flexible and on-demand support resources, online learning modules were considered to fulfil training requirements more appropriately than the existing PowerPoint presentation and Quick Reference Guide.

Aim

To develop eLearning modules for medical officers on using the state-wide e-RAT to assess and manage VTE risk.

Method

A working party of subject matter experts and instructional designers oversaw the modules' development. Existing educational material was adapted to establish key messages relevant to junior doctors. Following a consultation process integrating feedback from the NSW VTE Prevention Expert Advisory Group and end users, the two modules became available on the state-wide eLearning system.

Results

The first module consisting of interactive slides and videos

- teaches medical officers how to access and use the e-RAT
- provides usability 'tips' to improve user experience
- outlines benefits of using the e-RAT as a clinical decision support tool, and
- highlights important clinical considerations when assessing and managing VTE risk.

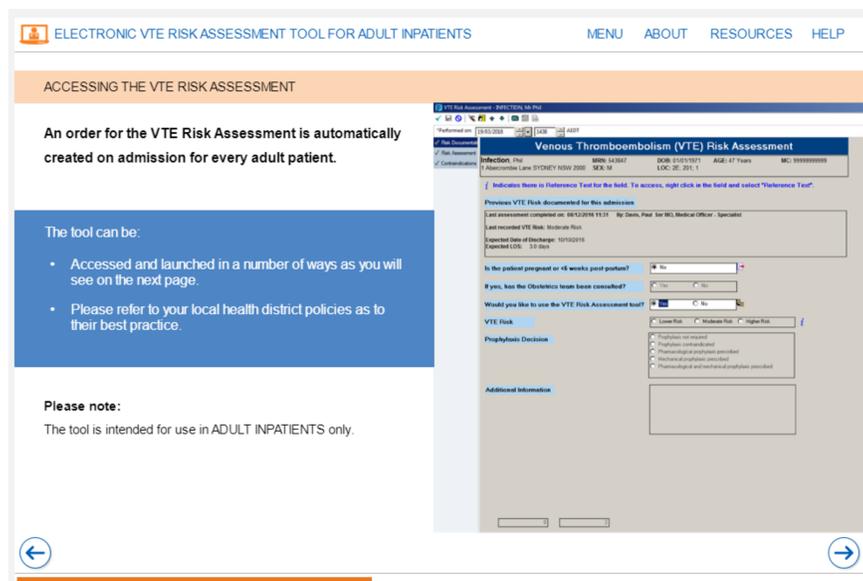


Figure 1. Electronic VTE Risk Assessment Tool for Adult Inpatients Module 1 – Accessing the VTE Risk Tool

The second module is a scenario-based practice activity which tests the user's ability to assess and manage VTE risk using the e-RAT.



Figure 2. VTE Practice Case Study Module 2 – Patient Profile

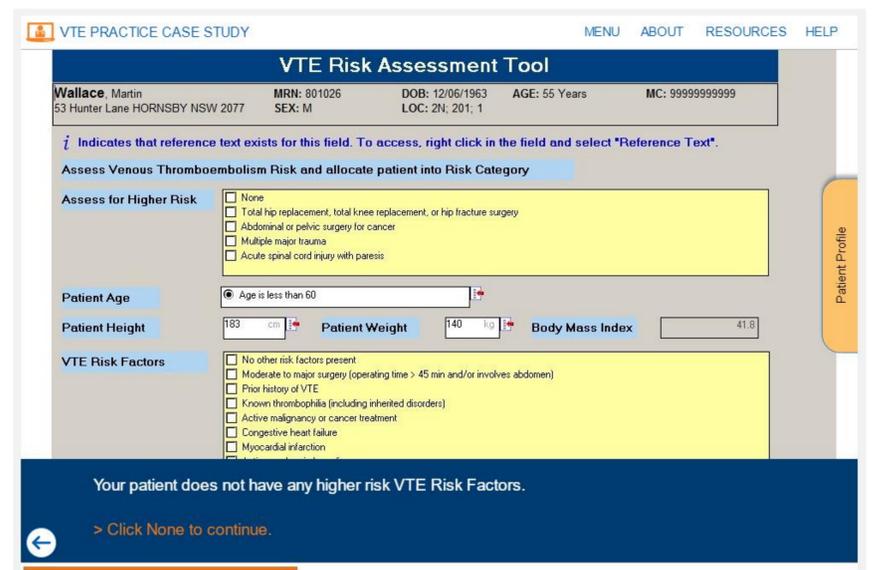


Figure 3. VTE Practice Case Study Module 2 – Using the VTE Tool Case Study

Evaluation

Ongoing evaluation will involve monitoring module completion, VTE risk assessment completion and appropriate VTE prophylaxis prescribing.

Key Learnings

In creating these modules, there has been increased understanding of

- the benefits of online learning for eMR training
- contextualising learning for end users through the integration of clinical content and practice scenarios, and
- the need for collaboration between instructional designers, subject matter experts and end users to develop effective eLearning.

Conclusion

State-wide eLearning modules on using the e-RAT to assess and manage VTE risk have successfully been developed and ongoing evaluation is underway.

1. Access Economics. The burden of venous thromboembolism in Australia: Report by Access Economics Pty Ltd for the Australia and New Zealand Working Party on the Management and Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism. Sydney: Access Economics; 2008. Available from <<https://www.deloitteaccesseconomics.com.au/publications+and+reports/browse+reports>>

The adult inpatient electronic VTE risk assessment tool (e-RAT) and accompanying eLearning modules were developed by the CEC and eHealth NSW. The CEC acknowledges the contributions of the NSW VTE Prevention Expert Advisory Group and Local Health Districts to this work.