

OET Case Notes

Pharmacy · Intermediate · Advice letter · to Patient

writingcorrectionservice.com

Pharmacy — Advice Letter for a New Warfarin Patient

THE CASE NOTES

Patient: Mrs Joan Pickering, 67 years old

Reason: Newly started on warfarin following a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) in the left leg

Dose: Warfarin, dose adjusted to INR; current 3 mg daily; take at the same time each evening

Monitoring: Regular INR blood tests at the anticoagulation clinic; target INR 2.0–3.0

Interactions: Avoid starting new medicines or supplements without checking; limit alcohol; keep vitamin K intake (green vegetables) consistent rather than changing suddenly

Warning signs: Unusual bruising, bleeding gums, blood in urine or stool, prolonged bleeding from cuts

Practical: Carry the anticoagulant alert card; tell any dentist or doctor she takes warfarin

History: Hypertension (amlodipine); occasional ibuprofen for knee pain — advise paracetamol instead

Task: Write an advice letter to Mrs Pickering explaining how to take her new warfarin safely and what to watch for.

Task: Write an advice letter to Mrs Pickering explaining how to take her new warfarin safely and what to watch for.

WHAT TO INCLUDE

- + **How and when to take the dose, and that it can change with INR**
The core instruction. The patient must understand the dose is not fixed and depends on blood tests.
- + **The need for regular INR monitoring**
Without it the therapy is unsafe; this is the single most important behaviour to convey.
- + **Bleeding warning signs and what to do**
Examiners reward a clear safety net in advice letters above almost any other content choice.
- + **Switch from ibuprofen to paracetamol**
A concrete, decision-relevant interaction the patient can act on immediately.

WHAT TO LEAVE OUT

- **The pharmacology of warfarin / vitamin K antagonism**
Mechanism detail is wrong for a patient audience and breaches the register. Explain the why in plain terms instead.
- **Her hypertension management**
Unrelated to the warfarin advice unless it bears on an interaction; including it dilutes the purpose.

CRITERION IN FOCUS · CONCISENESS & CLARITY

Advice letters to patients live or die on register. Clinical terminology, dense sentences and jargon all cost Conciseness & Clarity and Genre & Style marks. The 2026 emphasis on clarity makes plain, actionable wording essential.

Write this letter, then get it marked at writingcorrectionservice.com/oet-writing-services