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#### **EXPERT CONSENSUS DECISION PATHWAY**

# 2017 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway on Management of Bleeding in Patients on Oral Anticoagulants

A Report of the American College of Cardiology Task Force on Expert Consensus Decision Pathways

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Abbreviations

#### **PREFACE**

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) develops a number of policy documents to provide members with guidance on clinical topics. Although clinical practice guidelines remain the primary mechanism for offering evidence-based recommendations, such guidelines may contain gaps in how to make clinical decisions, particularly when equipoise is present in a topic. Expert Consensus Documents are intended to provide guidance for clinicians in areas in which evidence may be limited or new and evolving, or in which data are insufficient to fully inform clinical decision making.

In an effort to increase the impact of ACC policy on patient care, an ACC Presidential Task Force was formed in 2014 to examine the ACC's clinical documents. The main recommendation of the Task Force was a new focus on concise decision pathways and/or key points of care, instead of the traditional longer documents. The Task Force also established criteria for identifying high-value clinical topics to be addressed, as well as an innovative approach to collecting stakeholder input through a roundtable or think tank meeting. To complement the new focus on brief decision pathways and key points, Expert Consensus Documents were rebranded "Expert Consensus Decision Pathways" (ECDPs).

Although ECDPs have a new format, they maintain the same goal of Expert Consensus Documents: to develop policy based on expert opinion in areas for which important clinical decisions are not adequately addressed by available data. ECDPs are designed to complement the guidelines and bridge the gaps in clinical guidance that remain. In some cases, topics covered by ECDPs will be addressed subsequently by ACC/American Heart Association guidelines as the evidence base evolves. The writing groups are charged with developing algorithms that are more actionable and can be implemented into tools or apps to accelerate the use of these documents at point of care. Decision Pathways are not intended to provide a single correct answer, but to encourage clinicians to ask certain questions and consider important factors as they come to their own decision on a treatment plan to be

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