Venous thromboembolism (VTE) affects as many as 900,000 Americans each year. Up to 100,000 Americans die from VTE each year – 10-30% will die within one month of diagnosis and approximately 25% with pulmonary embolism (PE) have sudden death as their first symptom. Recurrence of VTE is not uncommon (33%) and one third of those with deep vein thrombosis (DVT) have long-term complications (e.g., post-thrombotic syndrome).

Prevention is key! Most hospital-acquired (HA) VTE events can be prevented with appropriate prophylaxis. The Eliminate Preventable Harm: Hartford Healthcare’s Venous Thromboembolism Prevention Initiative established best practice prevention methods to implement hospital and region-wide. Windham Hospital began with a pilot in March 2022 and has seen improved compliance with the prevention methods and zero HA VTE events in 2022.

The initiative is still in process, and newly revised VTE prophylaxis guidelines will be released in February 2023 system-wide. Further reductions in HA VTE are expected.

The VTE Prevention initiative is still in process and will extend beyond the pilot unit to all inpatient units at Windham hospital beginning February 2023 as revised VTE prophylaxis guidelines are released. We expect to see continued success at Windham and across the system.

Windham Hospital Findings
Education was provided to nursing (a med-surg pilot unit) and providers to ensure KSA in VTE and best practice prevention methods. Visual and electronic auditing was performed on these prevention methods prior to, during, and post-education. Significant improvements were seen across all methods audited:

- VTE Risk Assessment scoring within 24 hours of admission (Providers): 6% increase
- SCD use – documentation of use over a 12-hour period (Nursing): 5% increase
- Ambulation – distance documentation (Nursing/Technicians): 32% increase

There were no HA VTE events for the year 2022 at Windham Hospital.

The VTE Prevention initiative is still in process and will extend beyond the pilot unit to all inpatient units at Windham hospital beginning February 2023 as revised VTE prophylaxis guidelines are released. We expect to see continued success at Windham and across the system.

References