

TRUST BOARD: BRIEFING NOTE

Meeting Details:	Thursday 4th June 2026
Director:	Dr Brendan Lavery, Medical Director
Issue Title:	Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) Targets Quarterly Trust Board Report – Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)
Indicate connection with Trust's Mission and Vision <i>(please tick)</i>	☒ People who need us feel cared for ☒ People who work with us feel proud ☐ People who live in our communities trust us
Indicate link to Trust's strategic priorities <i>(please tick)</i>	☒ Quality and Safety ☐ Workforce Stabilisation ☐ Performance and Access to Services ☐ Delivering Value ☐ Culture
Summary of issue to be discussed:	Background VTE is a significant cause of death in hospital patients. Treatment of non-fatal symptomatic VTE and related long-term morbidities is associated with considerable cost to the health service. NICE guidance has been endorsed by the Department of Health and implemented in Northern Ireland. Assessing the risks of VTE and bleeding is a key priority for implementation of the guidelines. Issue Prior to the introduction of Encompass in May 2025, compliance with monthly audits monitoring completion of the VTE Risk Assessment within 24hrs of admission was reported to the PHA. However, this reporting has been paused regionally whilst work is ongoing to build a reporting function on Encompass. The Chair of the Trust VTE Group attends the Regional Encompass Benefits Group meetings and provides progress updates to the Trust VTE Group at quarterly meetings. All Trusts are experiencing similar issues and it was highlighted that the information available on EPIC may not be compatible with the previous audit tool. Interim controls The Trust VTE Group is considering the development of a Trust standard operating procedure in order to resume

	completion of VTE audits across all inpatient wards as an interim measure and to ensure consistency. • Some inpatient wards continue to manually audit 10 patient charts each month to provide assurance until a reporting function with official statistics is available on Encompass. • A hard stop has been built into EPIC to prompt staff to complete the VTE Risk Assessment. If a staff member proceeds without completing the risk assessment EPIC will record the identity of the staff member. • It was highlighted that there is no hard stop built in to the risk assessment on the system to ensure that all risk factor questions are completed by medical staff. It was suggested that three hard stops could be added to the build on EPIC related to lower limb injuries. This has been shared with the Encompass team for regional discussion and agreement. Assurance The Trust VTE Group continue to monitor any cases of hospital acquired thrombosis as a standing agenda item at quarterly meetings. Any cases deemed to be managed inappropriately are reviewed to identify any action required.
Trust Board Response	☐ For Approval ☒ To Note ☐ Decision