

Author + date	Dr X Date Month/year	
Keywords	Atrial fibrillation, anticoagulation, DOAC	
Categories	Cardiovascular disease, management Curriculum clinical topic guide: Cardiovascular health	
Question Title	Anticoagulation in atrial fibrillation	
Question Scenario and lead-in	A 72-year-old man is diagnosed with non-valvular atrial fibrillation. He takes medication for hypertension and type 2 diabetes. He has no history of stroke or transient ischaemic attack and has no significant bleeding history. His pulse is irregular at 86 bpm and his BP is 138/78 mmHg. Which is the most appropriate treatment, if any, to reduce his risk of stroke? Select one option only.	
Answer options	A	Apixaban
	B	Aspirin
	C	Clopidogrel
	D	No antithrombotic treatment
	E	Warfarin
Answer	A Apixaban	
Specific References	NICE. Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management. NG196. 1.6.3 Overview Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management Guidance NICE	
Answer justification	This man has non-valvular atrial fibrillation and a CHA₂DS₂-VASc score of 3 (age 65–74, hypertension and diabetes), indicating an increased risk of stroke for which anticoagulation is appropriate. A direct-acting oral anticoagulant such as apixaban is preferred to aspirin or antiplatelet therapy for stroke prevention in people with atrial fibrillation.	