Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACS)
Apixaban, Dabigatran, Edoxaban and Rivaroxaban and your dental treatment

What do I need to do?
It is very important that your dentist knows what medications you are taking and what medical conditions you have. By dentist we also mean your dental hygienist or dental therapist.

- Tell your dentist which anticoagulant you are taking. Apixaban, Dabigatran, Edoxaban or Rivaroxaban.
- Tell the dentist about all other medications you are taking, both prescribed and medicines you have bought over the counter at the chemist. It would be helpful to show the dentist all of your prescriptions.
- Aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and diclofenac can cause you to bleed more.
- You should also tell your dentist about any herbal or complementary medicines you are taking.
- Tell the dentist about any medical conditions that you have, particularly if you have a kidney or liver condition. These conditions can cause you to bleed more.

This information will allow your dentist to decide on the most suitable treatment for you. Your dentist may contact your doctor if they require more information.

What will my dentist do?
- Your dentist can plan the most suitable dental treatment for you. They will discuss your treatment options with you.
- In most cases your dentist will be able to carry out your dental treatment as usual and will not advise you to alter your medication.
- Your dentist can also take other steps to minimise any bleeding that takes place during your dental treatment. Your dentist might put some stitches in to help stop any bleeding.
- For some procedures that can cause more bleeding, your dentist may advise you to delay or miss taking your DOAC drug on the morning of your dental treatment. Your dentist will tell you when to take the next dose after the treatment.
- Your dentist may only carry out a small amount of treatment to start with, or may spread out your treatment over several visits.
- Your dentist should give you information about what to do after your treatment and who to contact if you have any concerns about post-treatment bleeding.

As with any anticoagulant there is a risk of bleeds
Seek advice from a pharmacist or clinician if you experience any of the following or similar symptoms: Nose bleeds, blood in urine or poo, bruising anywhere, bleeding gums, heavier than normal periods, bleeding from a wound that won’t stop.