



Medicines
safety is
everyone's role

Apixaban... is the 5mg bd dose suitable for all older patients with Non-Valvular Atrial fibrillation?

What dose should be prescribed for a 85 year old patient with normal renal function, weighing 57kg for prophylaxis of stroke and systemic embolism in non-valvular atrial fibrillation?



Answer: No, correct dose is 2.5mg twice a day.



Doses must be adjusted for:

- **indication**
- **age**
- **weight**
- **renal function**

British National Formulary:

For this indication (AF) and normal renal function:

Adult 18–79 years

5 mg twice daily.

Adult 80 years and over (body-weight up to 61 kg)

2.5 mg twice daily.

Adult 80 years and over (body-weight 61 kg and above)

5 mg twice daily.

- For every 25 patients where the dose is optimised there will be a preventable death or major bleed.¹
- Measure actual weight
- Low weight is a significant risk factor for bleeding risk with DOACs
- There have been a number of incidents reported where doses have not been adjusted for body weight in patients over 80 years of age and under 61kg

1. [Anticoagulant Safety Improvement Programme.](#)

2. [SPC Eliquis 5 mg film-coated tablets - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) | 2878](#)