



### What it covers

- Who should receive an intervention and what that intervention should be
- Interventions considered include blood thinning medications of different types and mechanical compression (e.g., pneumatic compression devices or graduated compression stockings).



### Why it matters

- Medical inpatients, long-term care residents, persons with minor injuries, and long-distance travelers are at increased risk of VTE, which can be fatal (20-25% of all VTE instances occur in these groups).
- It is important to ensure that at-risk patients receive the appropriate measures to prevent VTE without excess bleeding side effects.
- The guidelines recommend the best approaches for preventing VTE in these populations while minimizing unnecessary heparin during the hospital stay is preferred over a direct oral anticoagulant in hospital or after discharge.



### Who it affects

- The use of combined modalities in medical inpatients (e.g., compression devices plus a blood thinner) is not necessary.
- Long-distance air travelers who do not have an elevated risk of thrombosis do not need to wear compression socks or take a blood thinner like aspirin to prevent thrombosis. Air travelers at substantially increased risk may benefit from graduated compression stockings or low-molecular-weight heparin.



### What are the highlights

Total number of panel recommendations: 21

#### REFERENCE

Schunemann, H. J., Cushman, M., Burnett, A. E., Kahn, S. R., Beyer-Westendorf, J., Spencer, F. A., Rezende, S. M., Zakai, N. A., Bauer, K. A., Dentali, F., Lansing, J., Balduzzi, S., Darzi, A., Morgano, G. P., Neumann, I., Nieuwlaat, R., Yepes-Nuñez, J. J., Zhang, Y., & Wiercioch, W. [American Society of Hematology 2018 guidelines for management of venous thromboembolism: prophylaxis for hospitalized and nonhospitalized medical patients](#). Blood Advances. 2018; 2:3198-3225

For more information on the 2018 ASH Clinical Practice Guidelines on Venous Thromboembolism, visit [www.ashpublications.org/venous-thromboembolism](#).  
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