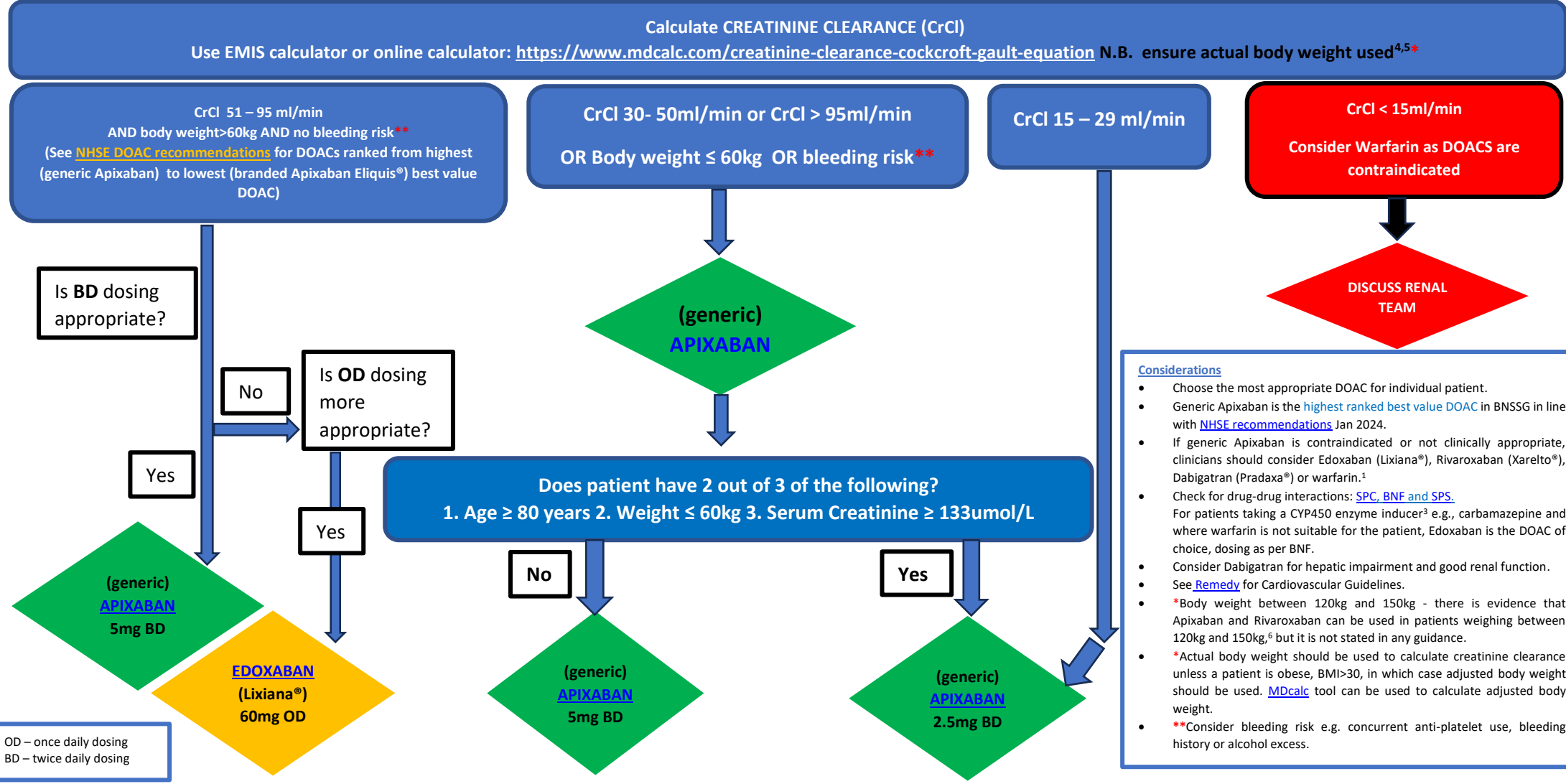


**Guidance for initiation of Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) for non-valvular ATRIAL FIBRILLATION**  
 (non-valvular = absence of mechanical heart valve or mod/severe mitral stenosis) **NB: Not for VTE use**

This guidance has been updated following the [publication](#) of NHSE Commissioning recommendations<sup>1</sup> for national procurement for DOACs in January 2024. *For patients commencing treatment for AF: subject to the criteria specified in the relevant NICE technology appraisal guidance<sup>2</sup>, clinicians should use the best value DOAC that is clinically appropriate for the patient.* In BNSSG clinicians are being encouraged to prescribe generic Apixaban for new patients where clinically appropriate and to follow the NHSE DOAC recommendations.



Written by BNSSG Medicines Optimisation Team in consultation with local specialists. Approved by BNSSG APMOC Feb 24, review date Feb 27, V4.7

References: 1. NHSE, Jan 24. Commissioning recommendations for national procurement for direct-acting oral anticoagulant(s) (DOACs) [Online]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/commissioning-recommendations-for-national-procurement-for-doacs/> [Accessed: 22.1.24] 2. NICE NG196, 2021. Atrial fibrillation: diagnosis and management [Online]. Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng196> [Accessed 22.1.24] 3. Candeloro, M., Eikelboom, J., et al, 2022. Carbamazepine, phenytoin, and oral anticoagulants: Drug-drug interaction and clinical events in a retrospective cohort [Accessed: 22.1.24] 4. NHS NorthWest Coast Strategic Clinical Networks, 2018. Consensus Statement on how to calculate the Creatinine Clearance (CrCl) which is necessary when assessing the Dose of Direct-Acting Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)[Online]. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/north/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/01/consensus-statement-on-crcl-calculation-for-doacs-final.pdf> [Accessed 22.1.24] 5. V-LIN CHEONG AND OSMAN ALI, 2021. Safe prescribing of direct oral anticoagulants for non-valvular AF. *Prescriber*. [Online]. Available from: <https://wchh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/psb.1911> [Accessed: 22.1.24] 6. Barakat, A F., et al. 2021. Outcomes of DOACs in AF patients across different BMI categories [Online]. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405500X21001225?via%3DIihub> [Accessed: 24.1.2024]