

## Blood Clots (also known as Venous Thromboembolism or VTE)

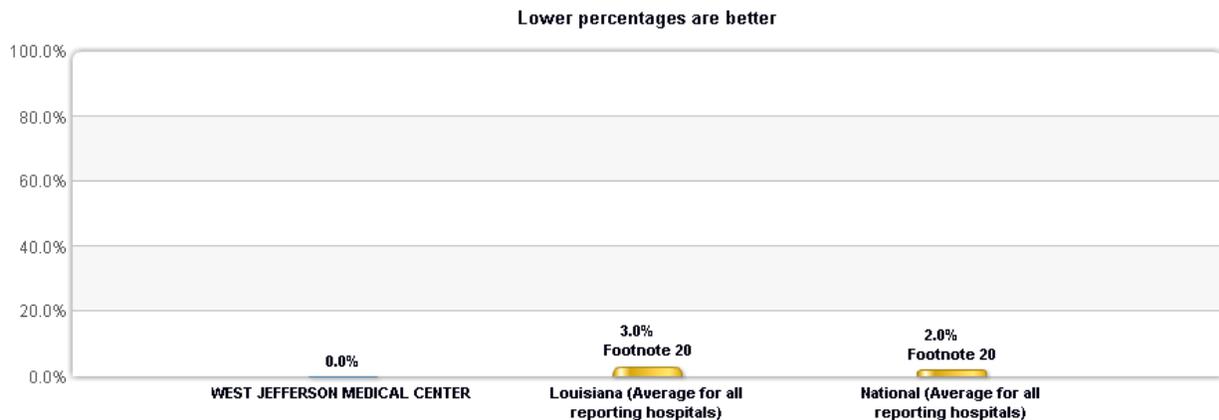
Because hospital patients often have to stay in bed for long periods of time, they are at increased risk of developing blood clots in the legs. These clots can cause pain, swelling and redness of the leg; and can break off and travel to other parts of the body (like the brain, heart or lungs), causing more serious complications.

At West Jefferson Medical Center, keeping our patients safe and free from harm is our number one priority. We have processes in place to prevent blood clots by evaluating our patients for their risk of developing blood clots and by using appropriate prevention and treatment measures. Prevention can include:

- Compression Stockings (often called TED hose)
- Blood thinners, and/or other medicines.

Our prevention measures have been in place for several years, and our outcomes are reflected below:

### Patients who developed a blood clot while in the hospital at West Jefferson Medical Center who did not get treatment that could have prevented it



Note: This data is publicly reported on Hospital Compare at <https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare>

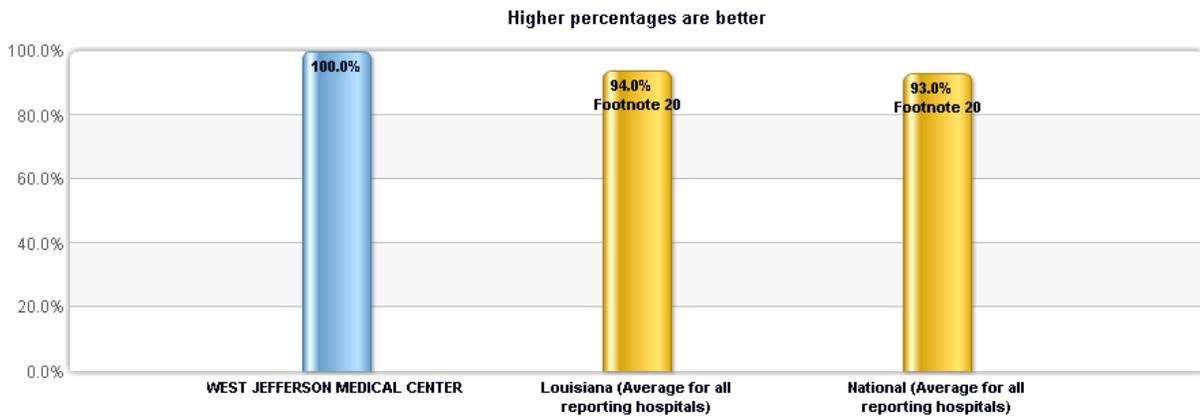
Patients who develop blood clots (also called venous thromboembolism or VTE) will usually be given blood thinner medication to take when they go home.

Educating patients about how to take the medicine and its possible side effects is key, and can help prevent problems that could possibly bring them back to the hospital (readmission). Before leaving the hospital, patients (and/or their caregivers) who are taking a blood thinner, should get information about the following topics:

- Medication Compliance (how often to take, what dosage to take, safety precautions)
- Diet (what foods to avoid that interfere with blood thinners)
- Monitoring their blood thinner medicine
- Adverse drug reactions (difficulty breathing, vomiting, nausea)
- When to call your physician (dizziness or weakness, a fall, bright red bleeding)

With the assistance of our pharmacists and our dietitians, our Educational processes have been in place for several years, and our outcomes are reflected below:

**Patients with Blood Clots who were discharged on a blood thinner medication from West Jefferson Medical Center and received written instructions about that medicine:**



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