**PRACTICE FACEM EXAM 2021 SAQ – ADMIN QUESTION: GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT**

You are a 1st year Emergency physician at a metropolitan ED.

Your director has asked you to develop an ED guideline/protocol on recognition and diagnosis of suspected thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) following Astra-Zeneca ® COVID-19 vaccine.

1. Describe four (4) common presenting features of TTS
2. Describe two (2) abnormalities on blood tests that would raise concern for TTS.
3. List four (4) non-ED stakeholders in your hospital you would consult to develop the guideline.

Score out of 12

Each section is 4 marks (Q2 is double marks)

**General Candidate feedback Q25**

**There is an ACEM guideline on this.**

**A – include symptom and condition.   
One symptom per condition.**

1. Headache (or other neuro sx) - cerebral venous thrombosis
2. Abdominal pain - splanchnic vein thrombosis
3. Chest pain, SOB, leg swelling - DVT/PE
4. Bleeding, bruising etc - thrombocytopenia

Would also accept arterial thrombosis – eg STEMI

**B – include Test and Range**

* D dimer > 5 upper limit normal. (D dimer = FDPs)
* Platelets < 150 x 109/L

**C stakeholder – non ED, hospital. Be specific.**

Suggest start with those who are most directly impacted

**Haematology**- clinical – you will need to seek advice

**Pathology**– specimen collection, results

**Radiology** – agreed imaging

Pharmacy - NOACs, IV Ig , etc

Also will accept:

ICU

Infectious diseases (if managing vaccine issues at the hospital.

Will not accept

External agencies – the question states hospital stakeholders

Non specific phrases – “inpatient teams” “critical care” “nursing”

**Resources**

[ACEM guideline](https://acem.org.au/getmedia/0bb52115-4510-42a1-b596-153b1cc6820c/TTS-following-COVID-vacc-guidelines_R5)

[THANZ guideline](https://www.health.gov.au/news/joint-statement-from-atagi-and-thanz-on-thrombosis-with-thrombocytopenia-syndrome-tts-and-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca)