Factor Replacement in the Treatment of Bleeding Disorders

**Factor (Antihemophilic Factor, AHF®)** is medicine that is infused directly into the bloodstream to stop bleeding. It replaces the body’s factor that is missing, or does not work properly, with one that will work. Factor is used to treat people with bleeding disorders. There are many different types of bleeding disorders. The most common bleeding disorders are hemophilia A, hemophilia B and von Willebrand’s disease. People with hemophilia A must receive medicine containing factor VIII to replace factor VIII that is missing from their blood. People with hemophilia B must receive medicine containing factor IX to replace the factor IX that is missing from their blood. Some people with von Willebrand’s disease must receive medicine containing both factor VIII and von Willebrand’s factor to replace the von Willebrand’s factor that does not work or is missing from their blood.

**How to give factor medication:**

Factor is given (infused) by an injection directly into the vein. (See "Giving Factor Replacement for Bleeding Disorders" CARE CARD.) Factor for infants and small children with bleeding disorders is usually given by a health care provider. As a child grows older, he and his parents (or guardian) can learn to give the factor at home. Parents must have training before infusing factor at home.

**Factor brand names:**


Factor IX: BeneFix®, AlphaNine®, Mononine®

Others: NovoSeven®, Feiba®, Konyne®, Bebulin®, Proplex®, Fibrogammin, Autoplex®

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

- The amount of clotting factor in the vials is shown as international units (IU). Always administer the entire vial. Do not throw away any of the factor in the vial.

- The amount of factor replacement required to stop the bleeding varies depending on the severity of the bleeding disorder and the type of bleed. Follow the instructions from your health care provider.

- Some factor concentrates need to be stored in the refrigerator and others can be stored at room temperature. Check with your pharmacist or health care provider to know how to store your child’s specific medicine. Periodically there are product recalls for a variety of reasons. To receive information about recalls, it is recommended you participate in the Patient Notification System by calling 1-888-UPDATE-U.
SIDE EFFECTS:
Most people do not have side effects from factor concentrates. If your child has any of the following, call your health care provider immediately:

- Itchy, red, or raised spots on the skin
- Difficulty breathing
- Increased heart rate
- Severe headache
- Fever of 101.5° F (38.6° C) or greater
- Chills
- Pain on infusion

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Let your child’s doctor and pharmacist and other health care providers know if your child is taking other medications or is allergic to any medication.
- Tell your child’s doctor and pharmacist if your child is taking any vitamins, herbal products or nutritional supplements.
- Keep the medication in its original container and store it exactly as instructed.
- Keep this medication out of the reach of children.
- Call your child’s doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any over-the-counter medication.

Call your child’s hematology nurse or doctor immediately at (816) 234-3265 (Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or (816) 234-3000 (after hours, and on weekends or holidays), and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call" if:

- Your child has any of the side effects listed above.
- You have questions or concerns regarding your child’s health or this medication.

Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 if:

- Too much medication is taken.
- Medication is accidentally taken.