**Hemophilia**

Hemophilia is a bleeding disorder caused by a deficiency in one of the proteins involved in the blood clotting process. Children with hemophilia can experience prolonged bleeding either externally or internally (into soft tissues and joints). Children with hemophilia do not bleed faster than everyone else, only longer. Hemophilia is diagnosed through blood tests and family history. It is treated by giving your child medication as directed, monitoring your child’s growth and development, and keeping your child safe.

Children with hemophilia can bleed spontaneously (no known cause) or as a result of trauma. All bleeds cannot be prevented. Watch for all forms of bleeding:

- **Nose Bleeds** (See "Nose Bleed" CARE CARD.)
- **Mouth Bleeds** – obvious bleeding from gums, bruising on gums, swelling on gums
- **Soft Tissue Bleeds** – a bruise that gets bigger in size, pain, redness, or warmth in affected area
- **Muscle Bleeds** – "a tight feeling" in the injured muscle, warmth, swelling, pain, favoring the limb, or limping
- **Joint Bleeds** – tingling or pain in joint (most commonly in ankles, knees, elbows), redness, warmth, swelling, decreased movement

You can decrease your child’s risk of bleeding by:

- Avoiding products that contain aspirin or ibuprofen.
- Avoiding hard contact sports such as football and boxing.
- Always notifying your child’s hemophilia nurse or doctor before having any dental procedure or surgery.
- Avoiding intramuscular injections, except immunizations.
- Giving factor prophylactically if it is prescribed by your child’s doctor.

**Call your child’s hemophilia nurse or doctor immediately** if you have any questions or concerns, or **if your child**:

- Gets hit on the head, neck or abdomen.
- Vomits blood.
- Has blood in the urine or stool.
- Has a mood or personality change.
- Has a change in level of consciousness or visual disturbances.
- Has seizures.
- Has a nose bleed that does not stop after 15 minutes of pressure and ice. (See "Nose Bleed" CARE CARD.)
- Has difficulty breathing or swallowing, or has pain in the neck or throat.

**Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**:
Call your child’s Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse at (816) 234-3265.

**Monday through Friday after 5 p.m., and on weekends or holidays**:
Call (816) 234-3000 and ask the operator to page the Hematology/Oncology nurse or doctor "on-call."