

Date: 27/02/2012

New Severe Bleeding Disorder Cards designed to ensure that patients with severe Haemophilia get immediate appropriate treatment at Hospital Emergency Departments

Joint initiative by the Irish Haemophilia Society and the Specialist Treatment Centres supported by the HSE

Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Cards have been issued to members of the Irish Haemophilia Society (IHS) with severe Haemophilia to assist hospital staff to ensure these patients get immediate appropriate treatment for their condition in hospital Emergency Departments.

The new cards have been issued by Specialist Treatment Centres for the condition at the National Centre for Hereditary Coagulation Disorders, St James's Hospital, Dublin, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin and Cork University Hospital. Images of the cards are produced below.

The card is designed to alert Emergency Department staff that the IHS member has a severe bleeding disorder and give contact details for one of the Specialist Treatment Centres.

This information is being distributed within the HSE so that medical, nursing and ambulance staff working with the acute hospitals are made aware that if a person with severe haemophilia attends at an Emergency Department, they may carry the card. The cards give contact numbers for Specialist Treatment Centres where expert advice can be obtained on immediate treatment required.

People with severe Haemophilia need to be treated with factor concentrates for any bleeding episode without delay and each hospital in the State stocks an emergency supply of these medications.

To minimise the risk of delayed treatment the IHS and the HSE are working together to ensure that staff in the hospital Emergency Departments are aware of the cards and the reason for them. The IHS produced the cards for the Specialist Treatment Centres.

In the past there have been cases of people with severe Haemophilia presenting at Emergency Departments who have had a delay of several hours before being treated. Such a delay could potentially lead to permanent damage or even death.

People with severe Haemophilia need to be triaged immediately and treated with factor concentrates for any bleeding episode without delay even in advance of carrying out scans or other diagnostic tests. The Specialist Treatment Centres have issued all patients with severe haemophilia with Alert Cards which advise Emergency Department staff to contact the Specialist Centre without delay if they present.

If a person with haemophilia attends an Emergency Department and shows this card staff should immediately phone the expert centre to get advice on appropriate treatment.

For further information about this initiative please contact:

Michele Tait
Hepatitis C National Co-ordinator
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20
Tel 01 6201750
Email: michele.tait@hse.ie

and/or

Brian O'Mahony,
Chief Executive,
Irish Haemophilia Society
Cathedral Court
New Street
Dublin 8
Tel 01 6579900
Email brian@haemophilia.ie

This person: _____
 MRN: _____
 Date of birth: _____
 has a severe bleeding disorder. If he / she presents at your hospital for treatment, you must **IMMEDIATELY** contact the National Centre for Hereditary Coagulation Disorders at St. James's Hospital on 01 416 2141.
 After 5pm and on weekends, call 01 410 3000 and ask for the doctor on call for Haematology.

Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Card




This person: _____
 MRN: _____
 Date of birth: _____
 has a severe bleeding disorder. If he / she presents at your hospital for treatment, you must **IMMEDIATELY** contact the Haematology Registrar on call at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin on 01 409 6100.

Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Card




This person: _____
 MRN: _____
 Date of birth: _____
 has a severe bleeding disorder. If he / she presents at your hospital for treatment, you must **IMMEDIATELY** contact the Coagulation Centre in Cork University Hospital on 021 492 0347.
 After 5pm and on weekends, call 021 4548400 and ask for the doctor on call for Haematology.

Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Card


