

Bleeding Disorders - Charging for Consumables Used in Home Based Treatment

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Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Medical Treatment

Summary Hospitals are to provide consumables at no charge, used in home based therapies for patients with bleeding disorders.

Author Branch Clinical Policy

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Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Dept of Health, Public Hospitals

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Director-General

Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.

CIRCULAR

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Contact	Julie Letts (02) 9391 9465 Quality and Clinical Policy Branch

**CHARGING FOR CONSUMABLES USED IN HOME BASED TREATMENT
OF BLEEDING DISORDERS**

The NSW Health Department supplies plasma derived and recombinant Factor VIII for use in hospital, as well as home based haemophilia treatments. An infusion kit was supplied as part of the purchasing arrangement for recombinant products, however this has not included provision of an access cannula for transfusion through a Portocath device.

The use of Portocath devices is regarded as treatment of an acute medical condition. This means that as the child is receiving outpatient care for an acute medical condition, the treating hospital is responsible for providing the associated equipment. Consistent with this, hospitals have previously supported home based Factor VIII treatments through supply of necessary consumables from within their existing budgets where these consumables have not been covered by the purchasing arrangement. Some hospitals are now charging patients and their families for supply of Portocath consumables.

The transition of some Factor VIII therapy to a home based approach has afforded hospitals with a number of benefits, including savings in bed days. The levying of these charges to patients and their families may provide a disincentive to continue undertaking home based treatments and may result in an avoidable increase in hospital admissions for Factor VIII transfusion.

Hospitals should continue to provide all consumables used in home based therapies for patients with bleeding disorders, and charging for these items is to cease.

Further inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Julie Letts, Quality & Clinical Policy Branch on 9391 9465.

Robert McGregor
Acting Director-General

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

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