

Severe Bleeding Disorders Alert Cards

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In Ireland, hospital based treatment for Haemophilia is centralised around 3 Comprehensive Care Centres:

- The National Centre for Hereditary Coagulation Disorders in St James' Hospital, Dublin,
- Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin
- Cork University Hospital.

All other acute hospitals around the country carry a minimum stock of factor concentrates in case of emergencies.

There were two documented occasions when people with severe haemophilia had significant delays before being treated with factor concentrates at non comprehensive care centre hospitals. This identified, for the Irish Haemophilia Society, a policy issue with potentially severe consequences. In a normal scenario in an accident & emergency department the person is triaged, seen by a doctor, diagnosed and then treated. The difference with a person with haemophilia is that it is necessary to treat the bleeding episode with factor concentrate without delay and then follow up with diagnostic scans or other tests required.

The Comprehensive treatment centres offer 24 hour advice to all other hospitals on appropriate treatment. It is vital that a person with Haemophilia who attends at an Emergency department would be able to encourage the health care workers to contact the specialist centre for advice without delay.

This is the rationale behind the **Severe Bleeding Disorder Alert Cards**.

These cards have been produced by the Irish Haemophilia Society and distributed by the comprehensive care centres to all patients with severe haemophilia. A specific card was produced for each of the comprehensive centres and circulated by the centres to their registered patients with severe bleeding disorders. The card gives the individuals name, date of birth and unique identifier (medical record number). The cards instruct the health care worker in the relevant Emergency department to immediately contact the Comprehensive treatment centre and provide the telephone numbers for use during the day and at nights and weekends.

The person with Haemophilia is asked to carry this card in their wallet or on their person at all times and show the card to the triage nurse or doctor who should immediately contact the appropriate comprehensive care centre for advice on the appropriate treatment and dosage. The Cards were issued to all people with severe Haemophilia in March 2012.

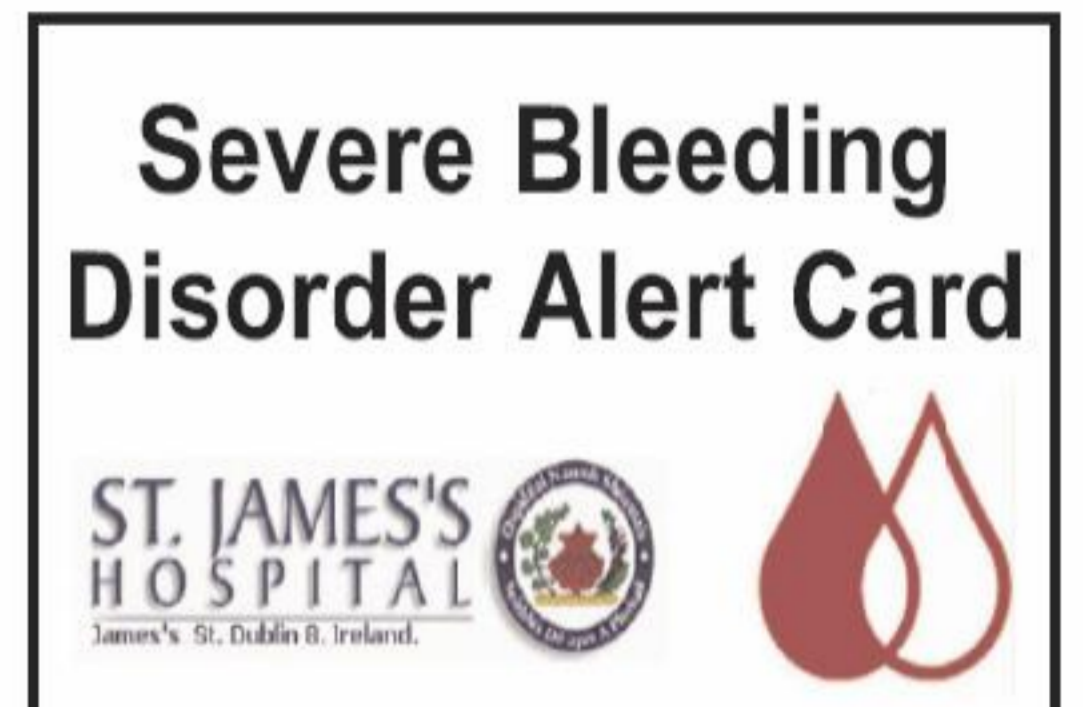
The Irish Haemophilia Society had the full support of the Health Service Executive (HSE), the organisation which operates the health service, in the introduction of the cards. The HSE wrote an official letter to every emergency department consultant and to every acute hospital in the country notifying them about the cards and instructing them to comply with the request.

An article about the cards was featured in the Staff magazine of the HSE – *Health Matters* - which has a circulation of 200,000 people.

Following the issuing of a press release by the Society, the launch of the cards was also featured on the National television station main evening news bulletin and on the website of the main broadcaster.

For the person with haemophilia, the most important piece of equipment in a non specialist centre is the telephone and the instruction to the Emergency department staff to call the relevant comprehensive care centre may well save lives.

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.



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.



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 4546400 and ask for the doctor on call for Haematology.

