

The European Haemophilia Consortium (EHC) is an international non-profit organisation that represents 45 national patients' organisations of people with rare bleeding disorders from 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) and most Member States of the Council of Europe. As part of its support for National Member Organisations (NMOs), and in order to improve the quality of life of people living with rare bleeding disorders and to ensure adequate supply of and access to safe factor concentrates, the EHC has developed the **Procurement of Affordable Replacement Therapies - Network of European Relevant Stakeholders (PARTNERS)** programme.

This programme is a new and innovative approach to the sustainable procurement of treatment products for haemophilia A and haemophilia B in select countries meeting EHC specified criteria and located both inside and outside of the European Union.

In several countries with developed healthcare systems but highly limited budgets, the volumes of factor replacement necessary to effectively treat haemophilia are not available. This results in lack of treatment or under-treatment for people with haemophilia, which has a significant impact on the health and quality of life of people with haemophilia living in those countries. The main objectives of the PARTNERS programme are to work with national healthcare systems to:

1. Enable countries to provide adequate levels of factor concentrate, to improve access to treatment for people with haemophilia.
2. Involve clinicians and patient representatives in the procurement process to seek to improve treatment sustainability for healthcare systems.

The PARTNERS programme is an effort by multiple stakeholders to sustainably increase access to factor VIII and factor IX replacement therapies. The main eligibility criteria for the programme, are countries where:

- Current use of FVIII replacement is <4 IU per capita and/or current use of FIX replacement <0.5 per capita;
- Prophylactic treatment is not available to all children with severe haemophilia;
- Countries where the national government, healthcare providers and National Member Organisations (NMOs) and manufacturers agree to participate in the PARTNERS programme;
- National authorities agree to:
 - Use national-level tender or procurement processes for coagulation factor concentrates;
 - Formally include clinicians and EHC NMO representatives on a long-term basis in the tender/procurement system;
 - Award contracts to the winning bid(s) of at least a three-year duration; and
 - Increase factor purchase without decreasing the national haemophilia budget and agree in principle to at least double the current national purchased amount of factor replacement therapies over the three year duration of contracts awarded or until the minimum IU/per capita set by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM) at any given time is met.

The development of PARTNERS also requires the commitment of companies manufacturing haemophilia products. To make the programme successful, by achieving a sustainable level of access to products for patients in eligible countries, companies committing to involvement in the programme must express a willingness to participate in the national tender/procurement processes of the eligible and participating countries and agree to provide those therapies in the participating countries at a price below a maximum price.



The programme will be overseen by a multi-stakeholder advisory group to support the development of the programme in each participating country. The PARTNERS advisory group will consist of representatives from the EHC Steering Committee, EHC scientific and medical advisory group, external regulatory and policy advisers, and representatives of participating companies manufacturing haemophilia products.

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