



EHC-EAHAD Joint Statement on Home delivery of treatment products, and supply chain management, during COVID-19 pandemic

The European Haemophilia Consortium (EHC) and the European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (EAHAD) are committed to the representation and support of the rare bleeding disorders community, the improvement of patients' lives, and the further development of scientific and medical research.

With COVID-19 deeply affecting Europe and its citizens, EHC and EAHAD consider essential that both patients and healthcare professionals remain well-informed during these uncertain times. The advancement and dissemination of knowledge can be our best weapon in the fight against this once-in-a-lifetime disaster. Therefore, EHC and EAHAD are adopting this joint statement on home delivery of treatment products, and supply chain management, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patients with rare bleeding disorders (RBD) require frequent injections of treatment products like clotting factor concentrates and/or other therapies. Many RBD patients are vulnerable populations (e.g. immune-compromised, etc.).

In ordinary times RBD patients would frequently visit their hospitals or pharmacies to collect their therapies. In COVID-19 times they should stay at home for safety reasons as per national guidelines.

In many - but not all - countries, home delivery of treatment products and home self-treatment by patients is a well-established standard, as per the European Principles of Haemophilia Care¹.

Under these circumstances, EHC and EAHAD urgently call on all governments to implement this Principle nationally.

The delivery of treatment products can be organised by treatment centres (hospitals) or delivery companies. Deliveries should ensure an adequate supply of treatment products to achieve safe patient care, continuity of treatment, and avoidance of death or severe complications requiring healthcare services.

Additionally, now more than ever, it is prudent to be prepared for potential interruptions in treatment product supply chains; therefore, the EHC and EAHAD jointly recommend implementation of the Council of Europe's Haemophilia Principles 1² and 16³ enabling patient representatives and clinicians to partner within their national systems on supply chain monitoring and management.

The EHC and EAHAD fully respect that each country's healthcare system is organised differently. However, now more than ever, we must act in unity and share best practice to protect the lives of patients, national populations and support national healthcare systems.

16 April 2020

¹ <http://eahad.org/european-principles-of-care/>

² https://www.edqm.eu/sites/default/files/resolution_cm_res_2017_43_on_principles_concerning_haemophilia_therapies.pdf

³ https://www.edqm.eu/sites/default/files/resolution_cm_res_2017_43_on_principles_concerning_haemophilia_therapies.pdf

About EHC

The European Haemophilia Consortium (EHC) is an international non-profit organisation that represents 47 national patients' organisations of people with rare bleeding disorders from 27 Member States of the European Union (EU) and most of the Member States of the Council of Europe.

The EHC strives to represent people across Europe affected by rare bleeding disorders such as haemophilia, von Willebrand Disease (VWD) and other rare bleeding disorders. One of the key missions of the EHC is to ensure an adequate supply of – and access to – safe therapies.

For more information about the EHC and its activities consult www.ehc.eu

About EAHAD

The European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (EAHAD) is a multidisciplinary association of healthcare professionals who provide care for individuals with haemophilia and other rare bleeding disorders. Its members include haematologists, internists, paediatricians, nurses, physiotherapists, laboratory scientists and researchers from across Europe.

Since its establishment in 2007, EAHAD has worked to improve the situation of people living with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. One of the key missions of EAHAD is to ensure the provision of the highest quality of clinical care for people with bleeding disorders.

For more information about EAHAD and its activities visit www.eahad.org