



## Hemophilia Fact Sheet

- A person with hemophilia has blood that does not clot like it should. Hemophilia almost always affects males. It affects people of all races in all countries at the same rate.
- People with hemophilia do not bleed to death from small cuts or scrapes. They do not bleed faster than normal. It takes their bodies longer to stop bleeding.
- Bleeding inside the body is the main problem. Bleeding into joints causes pain and swelling. Knees, elbows, and ankles are types of joints. Bleeding in the same joint over and over again can lead to arthritis. This type of arthritis can make it hard for the person to use the joint. Bleeding inside the brain, throat, and abdomen can be life-threatening.
- A person with hemophilia has it his whole life. People are born with it. It is a genetic disorder. You can't catch it from someone else.
- Medicine called clotting factor makes bleeding stop. This medicine is injected into a vein. Some people give themselves this injection. Other people go to a hospital or clinic for treatment. Taking medicine and seeing a doctor at a hemophilia treatment center help a person with hemophilia live a long life.
- Clotting factor costs a lot of money. It can cost \$200 to \$6,000 to treat a joint bleed one time. The more a person weighs the more medicine he needs. A person with hemophilia may spend \$40,000 to \$200,000 each year for medicine.
- These are the Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) in Georgia:
  - Emory/ Children's Health Care of Atlanta
  - Georgia Regents University in Augusta
  - The Children's Hospital at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah
- When a person goes to an HTC, he sees a team of providers. This team is made up of doctors, dentists, nurses, and social workers. Everyone on the team knows a lot about bleeding disorders.
- HTC care has been proven to be effective. Studies show these results:
  - 74% reduction in unemployment
  - 73% reduction in days lost from work or school
  - 83% reduction in hospitalizations
  - 74% reduction in cost of care
- There is no cure for hemophilia. Recent research using gene therapy has been promising.