

Economic benefits of home therapy

Treating hemophilia at home, as opposed to in a hospital setting, reduces the economic impact on healthcare systems and improves the quality of life for both the person with hemophilia and his family. With home therapy, factor replacement concentrates can be administered as soon as bleeding starts, minimizing the amount of treatment product needed and avoiding long-term joint damage.

Benefits of home therapy:

- In countries where home therapy is available, studies show a 400% reduction in clinic visits, easing the burden on public health facilities.
- Quick accessibility to factor concentrates has been shown to increase lifespan and quality of life for people with hemophilia. There is a correlation between home therapy and a substantial increase in longevity over the past 20 years. (Beitel, Barnard, Israel, Lillicrap, Poon, and Sek)
- Since more than 90% of the cost of treatment is the cost of factor replacement products, home therapy leads to optimal use of expensive replacement therapy and actually decreases the cost of treating specific bleeding episodes. One study in Mexico found that, across a lifespan, the average annual cost of care when factor concentrates were infused at clinics/hospitals was US\$18,819 as opposed to US\$10,104 for infusion through home therapy. Studies showed that the incremental lifetime cost per life of year added for home treatment compared to hospital/clinic treatment was US\$738.
- Quick treatment results in more rapid recovery from bleeding episodes and a reduction in long- and short-term disability; patients treated through home therapy experience up to 30% less joint damage leading to preservation of functional independence.

The cost of NOT providing patients with home therapy:

- Increased absenteeism and reduced productivity in the workplace for patients and caregivers; increased unemployment and financial burden on families if the person cannot work; increased costs to employers
- Increased risk of severe complications due to delayed treatment of bleeds, which may necessitate hospitalization, surgery, and other interventions
- Decrease in school attendance and resultant educational and social gaps; possibility of not completing education leading to diminished employment options and financial impact.
- Decrease in quality of life for families: more frequent emergency hospital visits which disrupt family life, causing frictions and stresses which become additional hardships to families already burdened with medical issues

For more information, consult the following resources.

1. Teitel JM, Barnard D, Israels S *et al.* Home management of hemophilia 2004.
2. Soucie JM, Symons J, Evatt B *et al.* Home-based factor infusion therapy and hospitalization for bleeding complications among males with haemophilia 2001