



## Adult Bleeding Disorders Program of British Columbia

Adult Division – St. Paul's Hospital

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### **COVID 19 UPDATE: Edition #2**

**DATE: March 16, 2020**

We are thinking of your needs during the Covid-19 global pandemic as we follow current recommendations from the Ministry of Health and Providence Health Care. This is the first edition of a planned weekly email update from the clinic, with up to date information and additional questions answered.

For the latest Covid-19 information:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirusinfection.Html>

The clinic remains open, accessible and committed to ensuring your bleeding disorder care is a priority. There is no change to how you contact us, please email

H&HClinics@providencehealth.bc.ca or call 604-806-8855 ext 1. As usual, after hours and weekends there is a hematologist on call.

Our clinic is putting a few precautions in place **starting March 16, 2020** .

**If you are thinking you need to present to the hospital in person, please call us first so we can provide guidance in the most appropriate way. When would we need to see you in clinic?**

- If you need semi urgent or urgent lab work and the testing needs to be done at St Paul's Hospital
- If you are having an acute bleed that requires assessment by a healthcare provider
- If you are having an urgent procedure that cannot be delayed and you require an in person visit or review prior to the procedure.

### **What if I have an upcoming appointment?**

Social distancing is an effective way for all ages to limit the rate of spread of coronavirus. The Bleeding Disorder Clinic at SPH, like other outpatient clinics, is moving to virtual appointments and rebooking non-urgent appointments. Blood tests will be triaged and non-urgent tests typically done in clinic may be deferred for a later time. If labs need to be completed sooner, we may ask you to come to St. Paul's, Royal Columbian, Royal Jubilee in Victoria or Kelowna General Hospital. We are aiming to have all disciplines attend scheduled appointments so the feel of the interaction will be different, and we look forward to having your feedback as to whether this may be a good option in future. BC Ministry of Health has promised a Province wide telehealth strategy in the future to make this easier, but for now we will use SKYPE or telephone depending on your access to computer. If you have appointments only with physiotherapy or social work these meetings will also be held via phone or virtually.



### **What if I have an upcoming procedure/labour and delivery?**

We anticipate that some elective procedures may be cancelled and rebooked in a few weeks or months to increase capacity of the system to care for sick patients and to keep well patients away from facilities. More urgent procedures or deliveries will be managed as usual with ongoing coordination between your Bleeding Disorders team and other medical teams. We request that patients that are not able to self-infuse factor, check with our clinic before scheduling elective procedures. The need to limit exposure to a hospital setting and the limitations to home infusion resources may exist.

### **What if I am on home infusion? How is the supply of product looking?**

Our clinic has been in touch with Canadian Blood Services, and the Provincial Blood Coordinating Office and further information will be released after the National Emergency Blood Management committee meets early this week. At this time we understand there is adequate supply of all factor products in Canada and no expected issues with factor supply. Please continue your prophylaxis as usual and order additional supply with generous notice (ie. 14 days). As much as is possible, we will request supply to limit your number of trips to local blood banks over the next 2-3 months. Now more than ever be mindful of the potential for injury with the activities you choose.

While we don't expect issues with hospitals restricting public access to blood banks, things are rapidly evolving and we are advocating to have alternate ways for factor to be provided to you. Please inform us immediately if you have experienced an issue with pick up of factor. If you anticipate any barriers to picking up factor product or receiving care please let us know. Please include in your communication if you are able to have a friend or family member pick up your factor from the blood bank. If this is the case please provide the friend/family member your BC Care Card and a letter indicating you give them permission to pick up on your behalf.

### **What if I am self-quarantined due to recent travel or symptoms (link to BCCDC website)?**

Please stay home and if you need to pick up factor ask a friend or family member to go (see above). Please contact us should you need to present to ER (or have a family member do so) to ensure we are aware and can make any necessary recommendations related to your bleeding disorder. See below link.

### **What if I have a difficult bleed and would normally go to the ER?**

Contact us and we will triage and provide recommendations. In these unusual circumstances we may offer different advice than usual, taking into account what is best for you and what care is available in the ER/urgent care centres.

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