

Helping young patients manage their hemophilia independently with the enhanced BayCuff® self-infusion teaching tool

As children grow they become more independent and begin to have busier schedules balancing school, sports and extra-curricular activities. Between the ages of seven to 12 is an ideal time to educate them about the responsibilities of managing hemophilia independently and to begin to transition some of the responsibilities of treating the disease from healthcare providers and caregivers to the young patient.

“Education about self-infusion and disease management is important for any person living with hemophilia, especially for children,” said Elizabeth (Betty Ann) Paradis, Hemophilia Nurse Coordinator, Sudbury and Northeastern Ontario. “It’s important to start training for self-infusion at a young age so the child can be confident when it comes time to administer treatment and manage their condition independently.”

Until young people learn to infuse themselves, they receive these infusions either from a caregiver or nurse. Children entering the independent management stage of their disease are often fearful of infusing themselves – plus it can be difficult to master the technique.

“Proper technique takes time and practice, and an innovative teaching tool can help children with hemophilia gain confidence and independence in the management of their condition,” added Mrs. Paradis.

Enhanced Self-Infusion Training Tool

Recognizing the success and usefulness of the KidK Self-Infusion Program launched in 2008, Bayer HealthCare recently announced the launch of the enhanced BayCuff®, a device worn on the hand or arm that allows patients of all ages to practice the technique of self-infusion without actually infusing themselves.

The KidK Self-Infusion Program is a global education initiative designed to provide those with hemophilia and their caregivers with the tools to help facilitate transition to self-treatment. The KidK Self-Infusion Program includes a KidK Kit featuring educational materials in easy-to-understand language. The KidK Kit also includes a comprehensive training program to help nurses and caregivers teach children how to self-infuse. Bayer has distributed more than 40,000 kits in over 40 countries.

The centrepiece of the KidK Self-Infusion Program is the enhanced BayCuff® self-infusion device. BayCuff® provides users with a realistic self-infusion experience. The enhanced device features a more skin-like surface that contains an artificial vein which, when pierced correctly with an infusion needle, produces a red liquid. This positive visual cue is analogous to the true self-infusion

experience and helps children gain confidence in their technique before performing the task on their own veins.

“The enhanced BayCuff® looks and feels like real skin,” said Mrs. Paradis. “The artificial vein and visual cue provide a realistic training aid that is designed to help children become more independent in their disease management. I’ve used the BayCuff® at my local clinic and also when doing nurse training in developing countries and they are always so excited about using it. Through these important innovations, Bayer continues to show its commitment to the global hemophilia community.”

The Enhanced BayCuff® Features:

- Improved skin-like feel
- Realistic skin tone and colour
- Less prominent vein
- Simulated fat layer
- Reduced resistance to needle penetration
- More sustainable packaging and resealable storage for spare veins

KidK Kits and the BayCuff® are available at hemophilia clinics across Canada.

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Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty Ann) Paradis is a graduate of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Sudbury, ON in 1966. She became the hemophilia nurse Co-ordinator for Sudbury and Northeastern Ontario Hemophilia Program in 1980 and is also a team member in the HIV Program.

Elizabeth is a founding chairperson of Hemophilia Nurses of Ontario, an executive member of the Canadian Association of Nurses in Hemophilia Care, co-author of the CANHC Constitution, President of CANHC and today serves as chair of the World Federation of Hemophilia nurses committee.

Elizabeth has participated and presented hemophilia nursing at conferences at the local, provincial, national and international levels. She has been instrumental in the development of hemophilia camps in Ontario for the past eighteen years and is a professional member of CANHC, RNAO, ONA and CNO.