WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY 2015
WHAT ARE BLEEDING DISORDERS

6.9 million people have a bleeding disorder
75 per cent of them do not know it

BUILDING A FAMILY OF SUPPORT

People who have a bleeding disorder can bleed longer than normal as their blood does not clot properly. They can also experience spontaneous bleeding into joints, muscles or other parts of their bodies. There are various types of bleeding disorders and some are more common than others.

People with hemophilia, a rare bleeding disorder that affects one in 10,000 people, do not have enough clotting factor VIII (Hemophilia A) or, less commonly, clotting factor IX (Hemophilia B), in their blood. A person born with hemophilia will usually have it for life and the severity depends on the amount of factor VIII or factor IX in the blood. Hemophilia is commonly a disorder that a person is born with but rarely it can also develop during their lifetime.

The most common bleeding disorder is von Willebrand disease (VWD). People with VWD have a problem with a protein in their blood called von Willebrand factor (VWF) that helps control bleeding. It is generally less severe than other bleeding disorders and many people with VWD may not know that they have it because their bleeding symptoms are very mild.

Rare clotting factor deficiencies are disorders in which one of several clotting factors is missing or not working properly. Less is known about these disorders because they are diagnosed so rarely. In fact, many have only been discovered in the last 40 years.

Inherited platelet disorders are conditions in which the platelets in blood don’t work the way they should, resulting in a tendency to bleed or bruise.

For additional World Hemophilia Day materials, visit www.wfh.org/whd.