U.S. National Guideline Clearinghouse accepts the WFH’s *Guidelines on the Management of Hemophilia* for publication

(*Montreal, Canada, May 31, 2013*): The World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) *Guidelines for the Management of Hemophilia*, revised in 2012, has been accepted for inclusion by the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC). The guidelines are now available on the NGC website at [www.guideline.gov](http://www.guideline.gov).

The NGC is an initiative of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the US government Department of Health and Human Services. This public resource provides a well-established platform for the worldwide dissemination, implementation, and use of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. In addition to making summaries of reputable guidelines available to a wide network of physicians, nurses, academics, and patients, the NGC is also an important source of information for health authorities and policy makers providing budget allocations and reimbursement decisions. The NGC is very selective about what it chooses to include on its website. The new WFH *Guidelines for the Management of Hemophilia* is the first guideline focused on the topic of hemophilia to be represented on the NGC website. This is therefore a very significant achievement for the WFH and should serve as an important milestone for the bleeding disorders community’s advocacy efforts in North America and indeed around the world.

The NGC’s rigorous inclusion criteria are aligned with the 1990 Institute of Medicine’s definition of clinical practice guidelines, which take into account how the recommendations contained in the guidelines were developed, as well as the evidence provided to support those recommendations. Prior to acceptance, NGC used these same criteria to review the WFH guidelines.

By compiling these guidelines, the World Federation of Hemophilia aims to assist healthcare providers seeking to initiate, maintain, or enhance hemophilia care programs, encourage practice harmonization around the world and, where recommendations lack adequate evidence, stimulate appropriate studies.

This second edition of the Guidelines for the Management of Hemophilia is available in the journal *Haemophilia* and also on the WFH’s website at [www.wfh.org](http://www.wfh.org).
About hemophilia and other bleeding disorders
Hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, inherited platelet disorders, and other factor deficiencies are lifelong bleeding disorders that prevent blood from clotting properly. People with bleeding disorders do not have enough of a particular clotting factor, a protein in blood that controls bleeding, or else it does not work properly. The severity of a person’s bleeding disorder usually depends on the amount of clotting factor that is missing or not functioning. People with hemophilia can experience uncontrolled bleeding that can result from a seemingly minor injury. Bleeding into joints and muscles causes severe pain and disability while bleeding into major organs, such as the brain, can cause death.

About the World Federation of Hemophilia
For 50 years, the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH), an international not-for-profit organization, has worked to improve the lives of people with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. Established in 1963, it is a global network of patient organizations in 122 countries and has official recognition from the World Health Organization. Visit WFH online at www.wfh.org.

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