

# Glossary

<i>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)</i>	A disease caused by a virus which attacks the body's immune system, leaving it unable to fight off other infections.
<i>Antibody</i>	A protein which is produced by the body's immune system in response to a foreign substance.
<i>Anti-haemophilic factor (AHF)</i>	Factor VIII.
<i>Arthritis</i>	The inflammation of a joint.
<i>Blood clot</i>	The jelly-like mass that results when blood platelets and fibrin mesh to seal a leaking blood vessel.
<i>Carrier</i>	A person who has a certain gene in his or her genetic make-up but does not have the trait directed by that gene; the gene can be passed to offspring.
<i>Christmas Disease</i>	Another name for haemophilia B or factor IX deficiency.
<i>Chromosome</i>	A structure that carries genes in the cell nucleus.
<i>Chronic</i>	Long lasting; persisting without stop.
<i>Clotting</i>	The sealing of a blood vessel with coagulated blood.
<i>Comprehensive Care</i>	Medical care that covers all aspects of one's well being and health, including mental, emotional and physical care.

<i>Concentrate</i>	A condensed, powdered factor VIII or IX; the factor is separated from donated blood and rived into the powdered form.
<i>Factor</i>	A blood plasma protein that is an agent in the clotting process.
<i>Factor Replacement Therapy</i>	A person with haemophilia is given an injection containing the blood clotting factor required.
<i>Gene</i>	The basic hereditary unit that directs body formation; each gene has a certain position on a chromosome and can reproduce itself.
<i>Gene mutation</i>	A change that alters the directions carried by a gene, producing an offspring unlike either parent; this change in the hereditary unit is permanent.
<i>Gene therapy</i>	A procedure in which normally functioning genes are inserted into one's own cells so that those cells will in turn produce specific protein controlled by the particular genes.
<i>Haemophilia</i>	A chronic, hereditary blood disorder marked by prolonged bleeding and caused by a defect in a protein needed for blood clotting.
<i>Haemophilia Centre (HTC)</i>	A clinic staffed with a team of health professionals who specialise in haemophilia. The Centre provides diagnosis, treatment, support and information to people with haemophilia and their families.
<i>Hereditary</i>	Passed in the genes from parent to offspring; the basic unit of heredity is the gene.
<i>Infusion</i>	Inserting missing clotting factor into the bloodstream via a vein to help stop bleeding.
<i>Inhibitor</i>	An antibody in the blood that forms in response to infused factor and hinders clotting.

<i>Joint</i>	The place where two or more bones come together.
<i>MedicAlert</i>	A medical identity bracelet or necklace inscribed with pertinent information about one's health when they are not able to speak for themselves because of age or injury.
<i>Plasma</i>	The part of blood containing the clotting factors.
<i>Port</i>	A device surgically implanted under the skin in the chest wall to make finding veins easier and to protect veins from continued needle sticks.
<i>Prophylaxis</i>	Infusing clotting factor on a regular basis. The intention is to keep factor levels at a sufficient level so as to prevent most, if not all, bleeds.
<i>Recombinant factor</i>	Synthetic factor concentrate made in a laboratory with little or no human material to reduce the risk of blood borne viruses such as hepatitis and HIV.
<i>Vein</i>	Blood vessel which carries blood from any part of the body back to the heart.
<i>Venipuncture</i>	The insertion of a needle into a vein.

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