

HEMOPHILIA ACTION



Hemophilia Foundation
of Southern California

70TH ANNIVERSARY
1954 • 2024

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From a July 1967 News Brief: "The Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California Chapter President Mr. Alfred R. Dubin is seen at the Hyland Laboratories, of Los Angeles, where the late Dr. Thelin, a bio-chemist, helped develop a concentrate form of clotting factors hemophiliacs need to survive. With him, holding a vial of the concentrate, is Mrs. Thelin and Hyland officials Norman W. Achen and J.W. Ashworth."

HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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2024 CALENDAR

FUTURE LEADERS & LEGISLATIVE DAY (HCC)
March 16 - 19 • Sacramento, CA

WOMEN'S RETREAT
March 23 - 24 • Sheraton Grand LA, Los Angeles, CA

WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY
April 21 • Location TBD

FAMILY INFORMATION DAY
May 4 • Knott's Hotel, Buena Park, CA

FAMILY RETREAT WEEKEND
June 1 - 2 • Pali Mountain Retreat, Running Springs, CA

CAMP BLOOD BROTHERS & SISTERS
July 16 - 21 • The Painted Turtle, Lake Hughes, CA

BACK TO SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM
August 3 • Location TBD

8TH ANNUAL FAMILIA DE SANGRE
September 6 - 8 • Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, CA

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A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our most recent Superhero-themed Walk on November 4, raising more than \$145,000 in support of advocacy and access to care, research, emergency financial assistance, scholarships, and Camp Blood Brothers & Sisters. Thank you to everyone who donated, raised funds, volunteered, and promoted awareness in support of the bleeding disorders community in Southern California!

We have another exciting year planned for 2024, including this year's Family Retreat, which will be held June 1-2 in San Bernardino County at the Pali Retreat Center and Camp Blood Brothers and Sisters July 16-21 at the Painted Turtle in Lake Hughes, CA. To register for any events, please visit www.hemosocal.org.

As my term as President of the Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California draws to a close, I feel a deep sense of pride and gratitude to have had the chance to collaborate with such an incredible and committed team of staff and Board Members. Our commitment to enhancing our programs and serving our community will remain steadfast. If there are particular concerns or issues you would like us to focus on in the future, we welcome and value your feedback.

I look forward to seeing you soon! In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or if I can help in any way.

- Rick Kelley, MBA

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I find myself filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together as a community. It has been a year of challenges, triumphs, and growth, and I am honored to reflect on our shared journey.

Reflecting on the accomplishments and milestones achieved, I am reminded of the power that comes from collaboration, compassion, and shared goals. Whether it was our collective efforts to support one another, community engagement, your commitment to our shared mission has been nothing short of inspiring. In the spirit of unity and shared purpose, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to every member of our community—volunteers, staff, partners, and community alike. Your dedication, passion, and resilience have not only strengthened our community but have also laid the foundation for an even brighter future.

We are so excited for what is to come in 2024. One celebration is the 70th anniversary of our community and our Foundation. Seven decades of history, progress, and shared experiences have shaped us into the vibrant and tenacious community we are today. This milestone is a testament to the dedication and enduring spirit of each member who has been part of our community over the years. Looking ahead to the new year, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the opportunities that await us. May the new year bring joy, prosperity, and continued success to each one of you.

Warm regards,
- Rigo Garcia, MPH





NEW FAMILY MEET AND GREET

On October 15, HFSC hosted families who are new to the area or new to having a bleeding disorder diagnosis at a New Families Meet and Greet at the Los Angeles Zoo. Families visited sponsor booths and mingled with HFSC member mentors. Families then participated in icebreaker activities to get to know one another. Contact information was exchanged between new families and mentor families, creating a welcomeness to all new families. After lunch, participants learned about HFSC's programs, services, and upcoming events. After the program finished, families were able to enjoy the Zoo!

Thank you to our sponsors for your support: Bayer, CSL Behring, Novo Nordisk, Sanofi, and Takeda! Thank you to our local Hemophilia Treatment Centers for their attendance, responsiveness to questions, and support throughout this event: Center for Inherited Blood Disorders, Lifespan Orthopaedic Hemophilia Treatment Center, and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Thank you to all our volunteers and mentors, and a big HFSC welcome to all our new members!





Hemophilia Foundation
of Southern California



The
Painted
Turtle

a serious fun camp

CAMP BLOOD BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT THE PAINTED TURTLE

JULY 16-21, 2024

**APPLY NOW AT:
[THEPAINTEDTURTLE.ORG/APPLY](https://thepaintedturtle.org/apply)**



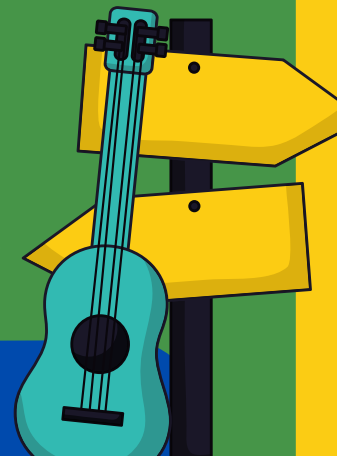
Application Checklist

- ✓ Clearance from Camper's Medical Provider
- ✓ Copy of most recent Progress Notes
- ✓ Immunization Record
- ✓ Camper Health History
- ✓ Medication List
- ✓ Allergies (if any)
- ✓ 2024 TPT Policy Forms (available on Painted Turtle website)

Questions? Contact Omar at omar@hemosocal.org



THE PAINTED TURTLE



15TH ANNUAL UNITE FOR BLEEDING DISORDERS WALK

The superheroes came out in full force with more than 300 attendees at HFSC's Unite for Bleeding Disorders Walk and Health Fair on November 4 at Whittier Narrows Park, in support of those with bleeding disorders in Southern California. We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated, raised funds, volunteered, and promoted awareness for HFSC's Walk.

It was great to see so many superheroes coming together at the event. Participants had the opportunity to play superhero-themed games, visit sponsor and activity booths, enter an opportunity drawing, and mingle with The Avengers themselves! Thank you to Fidelis for sponsoring the Habit Truck for lunch and to Takeda for providing ice cream for attendees.

HFSC is so thankful to everyone who donated; this year we raised over \$145,000 in support of advocacy and access to care, research, emergency financial assistance, scholarships, and Camp Blood Brothers & Sisters.

HFSC was pleased to host its first Health Fair in conjunction with the Walk. Booths included CVS Project Health Van, County of Los Angeles Smoking Cessation, and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

A special thank you to Joseph Olazaba, Amelie Iavicoli, Forrest Kelly, Annabelle Garcia, Albert Maffei, The Painted Turtle, and HFSC's Board for presenting at this event! And much gratitude to Karina Sanchez for singing the National Anthem; Elsa Raigoza and Jaqueline Ceja for serving as Co-Chairs for the walk, and to all our community for their participation! A shout out also goes to NCL Glendale and all our volunteers who helped make this event possible!



15TH ANNUAL UNITE FOR BLEEDING DISORDERS WALK

Congratulations to our Top Teams: Amelie's GT Striders, Perry Parker's Team, Cole Train, Ortho Walkers, Walking in LA, Team Avila, Ninja Stars, Rootin' Tootin' Desais, Jojo Squad, SCE, and Langston's Hemo Heroes.

Congratulations to our Top Individuals: Perry Parker, Dr. Doris Quon, Jesus Avila, Amelie Iavicoli, Rigo Garcia, Michele Warner, Dr. Richard Metz, Laura Desai, Joseph Olazaba, Karlyn Johnson Brown, and Michelle Kim.

Congratulations to the Best Costume Award: Elyse Olazaba, and to Best T-Shirt Award: Langston Brown!

Thank you to our Local Sponsors! Silver: Center for Inherited Blood Disorders, CSL Behring, CVS Specialty, Fidelis Specialty Pharmacy, Health Net, Novo Nordisk, Octapharma, Optum, Soleo Health, and UCLA Health. Bronze: BJ's Restaurant, Brothers Healthcare, HF Healthcare, Profusion Specialty Pharmacy, Sam's Club, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Walmart, and Westmount.

Thank you to our National Sponsors! National Presenting Sponsors: Takeda and Hemophilia Alliance. National Community Partners: BioMarin and Sanofi. National Partner: Bayer.



Registration
is now open for
our 2024 Walk!

Register Today!





HFSC 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California is thrilled to be celebrating our 70th anniversary in 2024. Throughout the year, we look forward to sharing historical photos and articles we have been fortunate to discover, chronicling our humble beginnings in the 1950s to become the large organization we are today.

HFSC started in 1954 as a society meeting for families in the Los Angeles area who were affected by bleeding disorders. Through small dinners and dances, the Society raised money to assist members and raise awareness about bleeding disorders. In 2024, HFSC covers nine counties in Southern California and serves more than 3,800 community members. We have grown from hosting meetings in living rooms to hosting monthly educational events; the original members of the Society would be astounded how much HFSC has grown.

In addition to celebrating at our events throughout the year, we will be hosting a 70th Anniversary Celebration in the fall. Our 70th Anniversary Committee is working hard on this event, and we are looking forward to revealing more details soon.

HFSC THANKS OUR PAST PRESIDENTS FOR THIER SERVICE

1957	Evelyn D . Sahalda	2000 - 2002	Rosemary Hutton
1967	Alfred R. Dubin	2003	Richard Metz, MD
1973	Marvin H. Newman	2009	Tamara Kato
1980	Irene Emerson	2012 - 2014	Richard Metz, MD
1981	Jules Rensen	2014 - 2017	Michael Franzen
1982 - 1983	Edward D. Gomperts, MD	2017 - 2019	Sandy Davis
1984	Lois Boylem. MD	2018 - 2020	Sandy Knight
1985	Ronald A. Sager	2021 - 2023	Rick Kelly
1986	Steven Pasquale, Ph.D.		
1988	Gerald Martin		
1989	Christopher Pitkin		
1990 - 1991	Atty. Gloria Pitzer		
1991 - 1993	Lawrence Logan, MD		
1993 - 1994	Rosemary Hutton		
1994 - 1995	Jonathan Holman		
1995 - 1997	Stephanie Dansker		
1997	Rosemary Hutton		
1997 - 2000	Jonathan Holman		



1954-2024

**Hemophilia Foundation
of Southern California**



While unfortunately we do not have a record of the name of this boy with President Lyndon B. Johnson, historically we know the President signed Medicare and Medicaid into law in 1965. Though we cannot confirm this is the reason for the meeting, we are thrilled to find such a photo in our records.

MY DECIDING FACTOR:

Making time for what matters most.

vonvendi
[von Willebrand factor
(Recombinant)]

Erica

VONVENDI Use: On-Demand & Surgery

- VONVENDI® is the **first and only treatment approved for routine use (prophylaxis)** in adults with severe Type 3 VWD who previously received on-demand therapy
- VONVENDI is **also approved for on-demand and surgical bleed management** in adults with all types of VWD
- VONVENDI **replaces VWF** (the main issue behind VWD), and **may be used with or without recombinant factor VIII** as instructed by your healthcare provider



Are you ready to ask about VONVENDI for your VWD? Visit VONVENDI.com to learn more, and talk to your healthcare provider.

VWD=von Willebrand disease; VWF=von Willebrand factor.

VONVENDI [von Willebrand factor (Recombinant)] Important Information

What is VONVENDI?

VONVENDI is used in adults (age 18 years and older) diagnosed with von Willebrand disease to:

- treat and control bleeding episodes
- prevent excessive bleeding during and after surgery
- reduce the number of bleeding episodes when used regularly (prophylaxis) in adults with severe Type 3 von Willebrand disease receiving on-demand therapy

Detailed Important Risk Information

Who should not use VONVENDI?

You should not use VONVENDI if you:

- Are allergic to any ingredients in VONVENDI.
- Are allergic to mice or hamsters.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding because VONVENDI may not be right for you.

How should I use VONVENDI?

Your first dose of VONVENDI for each bleeding episode may be administered with a recombinant factor VIII as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Your healthcare provider will instruct you whether additional doses of VONVENDI with or without recombinant factor VIII are needed.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I use VONVENDI?

You should tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any medical problems.
- Take any medicines, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, such as over-the-counter medicines, supplements or herbal remedies.
- Have any allergies, including allergies to mice or hamsters.

- Are breastfeeding. It is not known if VONVENDI passes into your milk and if it can harm your baby.
- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if VONVENDI can harm your unborn baby.
- Have been told that you have inhibitors to von Willebrand factor (because VONVENDI may not work for you).
- Have been told that you have inhibitors to blood coagulation factor VIII.

What else should I know about VONVENDI and von Willebrand Disease?

Your body can form inhibitors to von Willebrand factor or factor VIII. An inhibitor is part of the body's normal defense system. If you form inhibitors, it may stop VONVENDI or factor VIII from working properly. Consult with your healthcare provider to make sure you are carefully monitored with blood tests for the development of inhibitors to von Willebrand factor or factor VIII.

What are the possible side effects of VONVENDI?

You can have an allergic reaction to VONVENDI.

Call your healthcare provider right away and stop treatment if you get a rash or hives, itching, tightness of the throat, chest pain or tightness, difficulty breathing, lightheadedness, dizziness, nausea or fainting.

Side effects that have been reported with VONVENDI include: headache, nausea, vomiting, tingling or burning at infusion site, chest discomfort, dizziness, joint pain, joint injury, increased liver enzyme level in blood, hot flashes, itching, high blood pressure, muscle twitching, unusual taste, blood clots and increased heart rate.

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see the VONVENDI Consumer Brief Summary on the following page and talk to your healthcare provider.



Important facts about VONVENDI® [von Willebrand factor (Recombinant)]

This leaflet summarizes important information about VONVENDI. Please read it carefully before using this medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider.


**[von Willebrand factor
(Recombinant)]**

What is VONVENDI?

VONVENDI is a recombinant medicine used to replace low levels or not properly working von Willebrand factor in people with von Willebrand disease. Von Willebrand disease is an inherited bleeding disorder in which blood does not clot normally.

VONVENDI is used in adults (age 18 years and older) diagnosed with von Willebrand disease to:

- Treat and control bleeding episodes
- Prevent excessive bleeding during and after surgery
- Reduce the number of bleeding episodes when used regularly (prophylaxis) in adults with severe Type 3 von Willebrand disease receiving on-demand therapy.

Who should not use VONVENDI?

You should not use VONVENDI if you:

- Are allergic to any ingredients in VONVENDI.
- Are allergic to mice or hamsters.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding because VONVENDI may not be right for you.

What should I tell my doctor before I use VONVENDI?

You should tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any medical problems.
- Take any medicines, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, such as over-the-counter medicines, supplements or herbal remedies.
- Have any allergies, including allergies to mice or hamsters.
- Are breastfeeding. It is not known if VONVENDI passes into your milk and if it can harm your baby.
- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if VONVENDI can harm your unborn baby.
- Have been told that you have inhibitors to von Willebrand factor (because VONVENDI may not work for you).
- Have been told that you have inhibitors to blood coagulation factor VIII.

What is the most important information I need to know about VONVENDI?

VONVENDI can cause blood clots particularly in patients with known risk factors for blood clots. Discuss this risk with your healthcare provider.

You can have allergic reactions to VONVENDI. Symptoms may include generalized itching; rash or hives; rapid swelling of the skin or mucous membranes; chest pain or tightness; tightness of the throat; low blood pressure; shock; drowsiness; nausea; vomiting; tingling, prickling, burning, or numbness of the skin; restlessness; wheezing and/or difficulty breathing; lightheadedness; dizziness; or fainting. If symptoms occur, stop using VONVENDI immediately and get emergency treatment right away.

Your body can form inhibitors to von Willebrand factor or factor VIII. An inhibitor is part of the body's normal defense system. If you form inhibitors, they may stop VONVENDI or FVIII from working properly. Consult with your healthcare provider to make sure you are carefully monitored with blood tests for the development of inhibitors to von Willebrand factor or factor VIII.

What are the possible side effects of VONVENDI?

Side effects that have been reported with VONVENDI include: headache, nausea, vomiting, tingling or burning at infusion site, chest discomfort, dizziness, joint pain, joint injury, increased liver enzyme level in blood, hot flashes, itching, high blood pressure, muscle twitching, unusual taste, blood clots and increased heart rate. These are not all the possible side effects with VONVENDI. You can ask your healthcare provider for information that is written for healthcare professionals.

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What else should I know about VONVENDI and von Willebrand Disease?

Consult with your healthcare provider to make sure you are carefully monitored with blood tests to measure levels of von Willebrand factor and factor VIII so they are right for you.

You may infuse VONVENDI at a hemophilia treatment center (HTC), at your healthcare provider's office or in your home. You should be trained on how to do infusions by your healthcare provider or HTC. Many people with von Willebrand disease learn to infuse VONVENDI by themselves or with the help of a family member.

Call your healthcare provider right away if your bleeding does not stop after taking VONVENDI.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed here. Do not use VONVENDI for a condition for which it is not prescribed. Do not share VONVENDI with other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have.

The risk information provided here is not comprehensive. To learn more, talk with your healthcare provider or pharmacist about Vonvendi. The FDA approved product labeling can be found at https://www.shirecontent.com/PI/PDFs/VONVENDI_USA_ENG.pdf or call 1-877-TAKEDA-7 (1-877-825-3327).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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MEDICAL UPDATES

National Organization for Rare Disorders Launches Education Series to Advance Patient Involvement in Rare Disease Drug Development by National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)



Today, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD®) launched a new education series in English and Spanish titled, “Rare Disease Drug Development: What Patients and Advocates Need to Know,” designed to help patients and patient advocacy groups understand the drug development process.

“The goal of this educational series is to engage the rare disease community on their essential role in the drug development process and ultimately help produce more and better treatments for rare disease,” said Rebecca Aune, Director of Education Programs at the National Organization for Rare Disorders. “It was created to address key educational needs and gaps with input from patient organizations, patient advocates, and FDA reviewers, all of whom have a variety of experience

with the drug development process for rare diseases. Moreover, this series is presented in the two most spoken languages in the United States.”

Each module is available in a mix of formats to accommodate multiple learning styles, including animated videos, expert interviews, infographics, fact sheets, checklists, and interactive quizzes. The first modules, on “Drug Development Process”, “Stakeholder Roles in Drug Development” and “Natural History Studies,” are now available for free at learn.rarediseases.org.

Future modules, to be rolled out in 2024, will cover “Patient Experience Data,” “Designing Trials for Small Populations,” “Clinical Trial Endpoints and Clinical Outcome Assessments,” and more. Each module is designed to be valuable on its own, and together they provide a comprehensive understanding of the drug development process, the role of the patient, and the evidence needed to demonstrate that a new treatment for a rare disease works.

The curriculum is a collaboration between NORD, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Critical Path Institute (C-Path) funded through the Rare Disease Cures Accelerator—Data and Analytics Platform (RDCA-DAP). It was announced today by NORD President and CEO Peter L. Saltonstall at the organization’s 2023 Rare Diseases and Orphan Products Breakthrough Summit® to an audience of patient advocates, researchers, drug developers, and regulators, including FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D., who will address Summit attendees tomorrow morning. “C-Path is proud to support this education series and it’s great to see the roll out begin,” said Collin Hovinga, Pharm.D., M.S., FCCP, Vice President of Rare and Orphan Disease Programs at C-Path. “We’re committed to listening to people with lived experience as their insight, experiences, and perspectives play a vital role in drug development for rare diseases. C-Path’s rare and orphan programs, including RDCA-DAP, rely on patient data for progress and their 13 contributions are not just data points to us; they are the heartbeat of the mission to create efficient treatments for all.”

There are more than 7,000 different rare diseases, of which 95% lack any FDA-approved treatment. Rare diseases impact small patient populations of fewer than 200,000 people in the United States—sometimes far fewer. These smaller patient populations make it difficult to diagnosis and identify patients to participate in research, which is necessary for developing treatments. For treatments and research to occur for any given rare disease, patients and patient advocacy groups must be active participants in the drug development process.

To access “Rare Disease Drug Development Series: What Patients and Advocates Need to Know,” visit learn.rarediseases.org. For more information, please contact media@rarediseases.org.

Article provided by the National Bleeding Disorders Foundation

LET'S GO HIKING!



On October 14, HFSC and GutMonkey's Pathfinders program orchestrated a day of excitement and unity at Elysian Park in Los Angeles. The event brought together 29 community members and staff for an exhilarating hike. Amidst the breathtaking surroundings, community members immersed themselves in team-building activities, fostering bonds and support within the bleeding disorders community.

GutMonkey's Pathfinders program, dedicated to empowering those with bleeding disorders, ensured a day filled with adventure and camaraderie. As participants navigated trails and shared laughter, the event became a shining example of the resilience and strength within the community. HFSC extends a heartfelt thanks to GutMonkey for their sponsorship and collaborative efforts in creating positive and lasting impacts on the lives of those affected by bleeding disorders.



CENA DE MUJERES ENLAZADAS POR SANGRE

El 2 de noviembre, HFSC organizó una cena Mujeres Enlazadas por Sangre en Luminarias en Monterey Park, patrocinada por Takeda. Annabelle García dirigió una conversación centrada en las mujeres y los trastornos hemorrágicos, y sus desafíos únicos que a menudo pasan desapercibidos o subestimados. Algunos puntos clave planteados incluyeron problemas menstruales, embarazo y parto, retraso en el diagnóstico, impacto psicosocial, acceso a la atención y preocupaciones sobre el tratamiento. Estos desafíos a menudo conducen a un diagnóstico tardío o a ningún diagnóstico, lo que puede provocar un tratamiento retrasado o inadecuado.

Es importante que las mujeres con trastornos sanguíneos trabajen estrechamente con profesionales de la salud que se especializan en trastornos sanguíneos y sean proactivas en la búsqueda de atención y apoyo adecuados. Además, crear conciencia sobre cuestiones específicas de las mujeres relacionadas con los trastornos sanguíneos es crucial para mejorar el diagnóstico, el tratamiento y la calidad de vida en general.



HFSC 2023 SNOWFLAKE DINNERS

HFSC concluded its 2023 programming with a festive touch, spreading holiday cheer to bleeding disorder families through the annual Snowflake Dinners across Southern California. Hosting eight gatherings across nine counties, HFSC provided a joyous kickoff to the season.

Children in attendance received gift cards, adding an extra layer of delight to the festivities, while a White Elephant gift exchange brought fun and surprises to the events. Families were overjoyed to reunite, savor a delightful dinner, and relish the warmth of each other's company, creating a harmonious atmosphere filled with love and laughter.

Thank you to sponsors BioMarin, Sanofi, Spark Therapeutics, Octapharma, CSL Behring, Bayer, Novo Nordisk, and Takeda for their generous support and educational contributions which elevated the experience, creating valuable learning opportunities for attendees.

Thank you also to Guided Alliance, Specialty Care Rx, Soleo Health, Optum, Profusion, InfuCare Rx, Fidelis, and Brothers Healthcare for their donations and for contributing to the lively atmosphere with activities and crafts. HFSC expresses deep appreciation to its partners, whose commitment made the Snowflake Dinners a celebration of unity and compassion, setting a festive tone for the holiday season ahead.



MEDI-CAL RENEWAL UPDATE

MEDI-CAL BENEFICIARIES

**Take action
to keep your
Medi-Cal!**

Watch for an important
renewal letter coming soon.



Do you or a family member currently have health coverage through Medi-Cal?

If so, you will need to renew your coverage to keep your Medi-Cal benefits.

As of April 1, 2023, California resumed Medi-Cal eligibility reviews. It's important that you respond to any communications you receive from Medi-Cal. Some people with Medi-Cal could be disenrolled from those programs, especially if they do not respond to requests for information from Medi-Cal.

Here are some things you can do to prepare:

- Make sure your address is up to date (Reflect any changes since 2020)
- Check your mail and email for any updates
- If you get a renewal form (by mail in a yellow envelope), fill it out and return it to Medi-Cal right away.
- Members can check their online account – Covered California, BenefitsCal, or MyBenefitsCalWIN – for alerts.

What if you don't qualify for Medi-Cal?

If you or a family member don't qualify for Medi-Cal, you can be automatically enrolled in a Covered California health plan—you just need to return the enrollment confirmation to Covered California to start your coverage. To see more health plan options on the marketplace, visit Covered California.

- Get more information at KeepMediCalCoverage.org, where Medi-Cal members can find out about the renewal process and how to update their contact information to receive important updates.
- Watch out for scams! No one from Medi-Cal will ever ask you to pay anything to apply or renew your application.

Free health insurance will soon be available to more Californians through Medi-Cal. New rules around Medi-Cal starting January 1, 2024 mean more people will qualify for full coverage. Even if you've been recently denied, try again to see if you're eligible starting in January 2024. Immigration status does not matter nor will applying for Medi-Cal affect your immigration status.

You can learn more at GetMedi-CalCoverage.dhcs.ca.gov.



2024 EMPOWERMENT WEBINARS

February 7 • May 15 • August 21 • October 9

Register for February's emPOWERment Webinar "MediCal Updates: What You Should Know"




**Hemophilia Foundation
of Southern California**

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If you would like a copy of this newsletter in Spanish, please contact the HFSC office at 626-765-6656 or info@hemosocal.org, and we would be happy to send one to you!

¡Si desea una copia de este boletín de noticias en español, por favor póngase en contacto con la oficina de HFSC al 626-765-6656 o info@hemosocal.org!

 Hemophilia Foundation
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2024 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Join us for an overnight retreat of support, self-empowerment, education and fun!

Saturday, March 23 - Sunday, March 24, 2024

Sheraton Grand Los Angeles
711 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA

Begins Saturday 11:00am | Ends Sunday 11:00am
Register: hemosocal.org

 Hemophilia Foundation
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Save The Date!

HFSC Family Information Day
May 4, 2024
Knott's Hotel

