

## **Air Travel Alert: New Security Procedures**

When traveling with your clotting factor, it is advised that you bring a prescription from your physician that includes contact information, as well as a letter from your physician/Hemophilia Treatment Center providing a brief explanation of your condition and the need for this medication. In addition, if you bring needles onto an airplane in your hand luggage you must also have the clotting factor with you. Check with your airline at least two days prior to departure to learn their specific regulations regarding the transport of medications. Each airline is developing regulations that are subject to change.

It is more advisable than ever before to carry a physician's letter that states the name of the patient, the name of the product being carried, the fact that diluent water, needles and syringes are required to infuse the product, the fact that the person needs to carry the product at all times for medical reasons and that for reasons of asepsis the product must not be open until needed.

### **Air Travel Alert: Sample Letters for Travelers**

**Letter from Treating Doctor:** Carry a letter from your treating doctor with information about your bleeding condition and the usual treatment you receive. This letter should, if possible, be in the language of the country being visited. You may not always be able to treat yourself, so this information is important. See sample letter below.

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: (Patient's name)

This patient has a blood disorder called \_\_\_\_\_ indicating a deficiency (*and/or malfunction*) of factor \_\_\_\_\_. S/he is well known to me. If internal or external bleeding occurs, the patient responds well to early self-infused transfusions of anti-hemophilic factor plasma or recombinant concentrates. \_\_\_\_\_'s (*patient's name*) **judgment as to when plasma products should be used as to the quality may be relied upon.**

Yours truly,  
(*Doctor's signature, name, position*)

**Letter for Customs, Port of Entry:** Carry a letter to present to customs, if requested, to explain why you are carrying treatment products, prescribed drugs, needles and syringes. Again, this letter should be in the language of the country visited. See sample letter below.

Dear Sir or Madam:

A person with hemophilia can control bleeding only with transfusion of plasma or recombinant concentrate.

\_\_\_\_\_’s (*patient’s name*), who suffers from \_\_\_\_\_ (hemophilia or von Willebrand disease), is traveling to \_\_\_\_\_. It would not be possible for him/her to travel without a supply of plasma concentrates. S/he carries with him/her sufficient units for self-infusion as maintenance therapy and additional amounts in the event of an emergency.

A customs official who inadvertently withholds bottles of human plasma or recombinant concentrate may be placing \_\_\_\_\_’s (*patient’s name*) life in jeopardy. For purposes of comparison, it is as if insulin vials were withheld from a person with diabetes.

Yours truly,  
(*Doctor’s signature, name and position*)

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