



THE ARTERY

FALL 2026



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- 22 CAMP RECAP
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DEAR HFM FRIENDS,

In August, HFM had wonderful opportunities to share the value of collaboration and partnership during the NBDF Bleeding Disorders Conference (BDC). Gwyn Hulswit, Associate Director, participated with a panel presentation regarding the value and opportunity of sharing research efforts as a chapter in relation to our HFM National Women's Conference for women with hemophilia, rare factor deficiencies, and Glanzmann thrombasthenia. She worked with colleagues to update the poster presented during the World Hemophilia Foundation's 2025 International Women's Summit. Gwyn was delighted to share the continued success and program development of our amazing conference that began nine years ago.

We were also invited by NBDF CEO Phil Gattone to share the value of partnership among HTC's, chapters, regions, and national organizations at the BDC opening session. Together

with Alice Cakebread, Michigan Medicine HTC social worker, I had the privilege of sharing the value of collaboration—and we featured our very own Seth Furr, adopted 10 years ago from China through HFM's adoption program. Seth is an active patient, community member, camp counselor, and NBDF NYLI participant. What a difference coming together makes!

Since its formal inception in 1956, HFM has always been at the forefront of providing support and services to individuals and families. Here we are, 70 years later, and though there have been incredible changes in treatment and opportunities, we must be vigilant in our commitment to advocacy efforts, educational opportunities, quality health care, and support services. We pledge to never forget the AIDS crisis that devastated the hemophilia community in the 1980s and '90s as tainted treatment products caused thousands of people to become infected with the virus. It was a horrific time, as individuals and families lost their loved ones to this terrible scourge. Our continuing commitment to the community is fulfilled through collaboration and partnership across multiple organizations, all working to make a positive difference for children, adults, families, and loved ones living with, or affected by hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, and related bleeding disorders.

As you read further in this issue of The Artery, you'll see how camp has continued to evolve from its beginning in 1969. Bold Eagle Highlands inspired the creation of camps across the country, and in Michigan, has become Eagle Journeys, offering several weeks of various programming and furthering our "can-do" spirit through education and camaraderie. Campers, counselors, program staff, CITs, HTC's, and HFM staff come together to create an extraordinary experience.

Much gratitude to you for your support—as together, we make a difference.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Lerch".

Susan Fenters Lerch
Executive Director, Hemophilia Foundation
of Michigan; Regional Director, Great
Lakes Federal HTC Network

“ALL OUR SWEETEST HOURS FLY FASTEST.” – VIRGIL

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*PAID CONSUMER OUTREACH INCLUDED
IN THIS NEWSLETTER*



YOUR FLIGHT PLAN TO A HEALTHIER FUTURE

Held in Kalamazoo for the first time, the 2026 VWD Symposium and 2026 SpringFest: Your Flight Plan to a Healthier Future were defined by meaningful learning, lasting connections, and a welcoming community atmosphere. Previously offered virtually, the VWD Symposium welcomed more than 100 participants in person on Friday, setting the stage for SpringFest, where more than 350 attendees gathered throughout Saturday and Sunday.

From the moment participants arrived, the weekend was filled with opportunities to reconnect with longtime friends, build new relationships, and strengthen the sense of belonging that makes the bleeding disorders community so special. Attendees repeatedly shared that one of the most meaningful parts of the weekend was simply being together with others who truly understand their journey. Many reflected that connection was at the heart of the experience, with one attendee simply stating, “connection!!!”

Saturday offered something for every member of the family. Children enjoyed an off-site adventure at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, where hands-on exhibits encouraged curiosity and exploration, while teens teamed up for an exciting inheritance game before jetting off to the Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Experience. These age-appropriate activities gave young attendees opportunities to learn, laugh, and build friendships while parents and caregivers participated in educational sessions.

Education remained at the heart of the weekend. Participants valued the opportunity to deepen their understanding of bleeding disorders and their impact on everyday life, sharing that they learned “more about my own bleeding disorder and others” and discovered valuable community resources while becoming “educated about the unexpected.” Several attendees left inspired to advocate for themselves and their

families, with some planning to seek additional medical opinions or explore new treatment options based on what they learned.

Across the weekend, educational sessions were praised for being informative, engaging, and easy to understand. Bleeding Disorders and Sleep stood out for its knowledgeable, approachable presenter and interactive format. In-Flight Checklist: Management of VWD Symptoms received high marks for breaking down complex medical information into practical, understandable guidance, while Medical Marijuana: A Way to Manage Your Pain was described as both informative and thought-provoking. Attendees also appreciated newer topics, including Crosswinds & Clear Skies: Navigating Stroke Risk with Blood Thinners in Bleeding Disorders, calling the session insightful and highly relevant.

Creative programming also left a lasting impression. Songwriting for Resilience: A Music Therapy Workshop brought together participants of all ages in a supportive and uplifting environment, demonstrating the power of creativity to foster healing, resilience, and connection. Throughout the weekend, attendees consistently praised presenters who encouraged conversation, welcomed questions, and created spaces where everyone felt comfortable participating.

Overall, the 2026 VWD Symposium and SpringFest provided far more than education alone. They created a place where individuals and families could learn, connect, and leave feeling empowered by the knowledge they gained and the relationships they strengthened. As attendees departed, they carried home not only new information and practical resources, but also the reassurance that they are part of a caring community ready to support them wherever their journey leads. ♡



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© Brian Sevald photo

Briana McLaughlin

Patient advocate

About Briana

Briana is a Novo Nordisk Rare Blood Community Liaison (RBCL) whose daughter's diagnosis first brought her into the community, but whose passion for making a difference soon made her an advocate for families affected by rare bleeding disorders everywhere. When she's not diving deep into health education, she's camping, traveling, or cheering her daughter on at a basketball game.

Connect with Briana

IBMG@novonordisk.com
(317) 430-4536



Rare Blood Community Liaison

IN, MI, KY

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In early May, we gathered in Grand Rapids for an evening of appreciation for our community. The “Grand Rapids Lighting” celebrated all things light: the light within, the light outside, and even the light of a movie projector!

HFM took over the private movie theater at Bamboo, a new event space located right in the heart of downtown. We took advantage of the concession stand with a pizza dinner and later with an intermission that provided lots of popcorn and movie theater candy for all!

Our movie began with some “previews,” including a cartoon provided by the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital HTC. This was followed by a screening of “Redefining Impossible,” a film about elite athletes living with bleeding disorders.

To continue the light theme, the entire corner of Fulton and Division was illuminated in red in honor of our bleeding disorders community. This theme was extended when the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum and Tower Pinkster (at the same intersection) displayed red lights in their windows along with a QR code linking to HFM’s webpage that explains and provides education about bleeding disorders.

We would like to thank everyone who joined us for this fun and educational evening, our sponsors, and the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital for sharing their cartoon. Thank you also to the Bamboo Co-Working and Event Center, Tower Pinkster, and the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum for supporting us throughout the week with red lights! 📖



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Women's RETREAT

THE CONSTELLATION WITHIN: WOMEN NAVIGATING STRENGTH TOGETHER



This past May, 26 women from across Michigan, plus HFM staff, gathered at North Star Reach for a transformative weekend of relaxation, restoration, reflection, education, and connection. Under the theme *The Constellation Within: Women Navigating Strength Together*, the retreat centered on an empowering metaphor: just as stars shine brightest against a dark sky, our inner light becomes visible through shared experience and vulnerability.



The program was intentionally designed to foster intergenerational mentorship, creating space for seasoned members of our community to provide wisdom and experience with newcomers—reminding younger women that they are not alone and that countless women have walked this path before them.

The weekend opened with women gathering around a campfire, roasting marshmallows, and introducing themselves. The warmth and inclusivity of that gathering immediately set the tone. Several new members to our community were embraced and welcomed, discovering that they had indeed found a home within our HFM family.



Saturday morning, HFM staff member Shawna Norris facilitated *Building Our Constellation*, a powerful opening session. Each woman received a star and wrote a single word representing

what she hoped to gain from the weekend. As women placed their stars on a shared board—some sharing the meaning behind their words, others placing them in quiet reflection—a constellation took shape, both literal and metaphorical.



The day continued with two pivotal tracks. HFM's Kaite Scott, LLMSW, led; *Uncover Your True North: Exploring What Matters*. This deceptively simple prompt—prioritizing what matters most—revealed itself as far more challenging, encouraging women to examine their values and recognize what truly lies within their control, grounding life perspective in what authentically matters.

This year we started a young woman's track with Dr. Jennifer Girard facilitating, *Charting Your Course*, which explored the transition to medical autonomy and reproductive wellness. Far beyond



biology, this session provided information young women need to make informed, confident decisions aligned with their future goals. Attendees left feeling heard and seen, able to ask the questions they might hesitate to raise in typical medical appointments.



Meanwhile, the wiser women participated in a roundtable discussion with Alice Cakebread, LMSW, and Sherry Herman-Hilker, PT, MS, *Navigating a Constellation: Collaborative Advocacy in Healthcare*. This conversation built skills for strong partnerships with healthcare teams and community organizations, amplifying women's voices in their own care decisions.



The afternoon brought a sound bath facilitated by Karen Klien with Stay Tooned, allowing women to decompress through tones, instruments, and vibrations. The evening continued with Arts and Crafts orchestrated by community member Brenda Howey-Martin, blending creativity with connection.

Sunday began with Sanofi's Allan Kucab, RN, on *The Art of Gratitude*. Exploring how gratitude practices support well-being with chronic conditions, participants created personal, gratitude-inspired paintings.

The weekend culminated with *Weaving Our Constellation*, our closing ceremony. Women learned that no star shines in isolation—it's the connections between them that create a map for others to follow. This final gathering transformed individual experiences into a collective tapestry of wisdom, vulnerability, and newfound power.

As women departed North Star Reach, they carried with them not only renewed spirit, but the profound knowledge that they are part of something larger than themselves: a constellation of strength, resilience, and sisterhood. 💧

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— Michael, 23-year-old
treated with HEMGENIX

**Actual HEMGENIX patient.
Patient experiences may vary.**





CSL JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

CSL Behring's Gettin' in the Game Junior National Championship (JNC) offers a weekend for children and teens with bleeding disorders to come together for education, competitive fun, and physical fitness focused on golf, baseball, swimming, or basketball. HFM was pleased to support three Michigan families attending this year's JNC in Henderson, Nevada. Two Michigan families generously shared their experiences to encourage other families to apply for the 2027 program. We're also excited to celebrate Luca, a Michigan participant who competed in golf and earned third place in his division! 💧

THANK YOU TO CSL BEHRING FOR
OFFERING THESE OPPORTUNITIES
TO THE MICHIGAN COMMUNITY

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BROOKLINN'S STORY

Brooklinn had the most fun she's had in a very long time at the JNC Weekend. From the moment they arrived, Cassandra said, there was a sense of positive energy, encouragement, and excitement. The JNC gave Brooklinn the opportunity to learn new things, grow her confidence, and meet new friends.

Unfortunately, Brooklinn was injured before the JNC even started and was worried she would miss out on everything. But the team leaders, coaches, and other campers made sure she continued to feel included. Even though she couldn't physically participate in every activity, she stayed on the sidelines, listening to drills, watching demonstrations, learning techniques, and taking everything in.

"By the end of the JNC, her confidence and spirit had completely changed. She went from feeling discouraged about her injury to feeling inspired, supported, and excited to keep learning and growing in the sport."

— CASSANDRA, BROOKLINN'S MOM

Cassandra said one of the best parts of the weekend was seeing how welcoming everyone was. The leaders created an environment where every child was treated with kindness, respect, and encouragement, making Brooklinn feel supported and included throughout the weekend.



RAFAEL'S STORY

For Rafael and his mom, Elysia, the Gettin' in the Game Junior National Championship was an unforgettable experience. Before attending, Rafael was nervous about meeting new people and competing against other kids, but the staff and volunteers quickly helped him feel comfortable and included.

During the weekend, Rafael improved his baseball skills, learned new techniques, and gained confidence. He also had the opportunity to meet

kids and families from across the country who shared similar experiences while enjoying sports and staying active.

"The program taught Rafael confidence, teamwork, and perseverance. It showed him that he is capable of more than he sometimes thinks."

— ELYSIA, RAFAEL'S MOM

Elysia also appreciated the educational sessions for families and caregivers, which highlighted the importance of physical activity, safely managing a bleeding disorder, and helping children with bleeding disorders build confidence as they grow.

LANSING POTTER PARK ZOO COMMUNITY EVENT

This June, the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan brought education, community, and fun to Lansing with our Community Event at Potter Park Zoo. The result? An incredible gathering that exceeded our expectations and reminded us why this work matters so much.

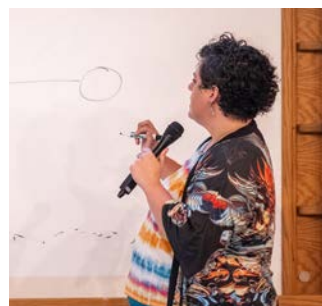
With 91 community members, 3 HFM staff members, 2 Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) staff, and 6 sponsors in attendance, we welcomed one of our largest Community Event turnouts to date. The energy was palpable from the moment attendees arrived, families excited to connect with others who understand their journey, sponsors eager to support our mission, and healthcare professionals ready to engage directly with the community they serve.

This marked our first time hosting an event at Potter Park Zoo, and what an exciting venue it proved to be. The combination of education, wildlife, and outdoor recreation created the perfect backdrop for meaningful conversation and connection. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the zoo while participating in educational programming, making it a truly unique and memorable experience.

One of the highlights of the day was the interactive presentation on genetics delivered by Samantha Cassisi, MS, LCGC, from the MSU HTC. Her expertise and engaging style brought complex genetic concepts to life in a way that resonated with our community. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of hereditary conditions and felt empowered by the knowledge she shared.

No community event is complete without great food, and we made sure to deliver. Our taco bar with all the fixings was a hit, providing the perfect casual dining experience

that encouraged mingling and conversation. It's these thoughtful touches that help transform a typical event into a meaningful gathering.



The Potter Park Zoo event exemplifies the heart of our Community Event program. These gatherings serve a dual purpose: educating our community about hemophilia, rare bleeding disorders, and related health topics while creating space for meaningful interaction with the healthcare professionals at our local HTC's. We understand that access to quality care and information isn't one-size-fits-all, which is why we bring these events directly to the communities we serve.

Each year we choose 3 areas to serve; in 2026, we're bringing education and community to Flint and Traverse City as well. By rotating our Community Events across multiple regions, we ensure that no matter where our community members live, they have access to resources, connection, and support.

As we reflect on the success of this June event, we're grateful to our sponsors, our dedicated staff, and most importantly, to the 91 community members who showed up to connect, learn, and celebrate together. These moments of genuine human connection are what drive our mission forward. 💧

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hfm **ruby**
connection
women's group

CONNECTING, LEARNING, AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

Ruby Connection is a welcoming virtual gathering for women in the bleeding disorders community to connect, share experiences, and learn together. Whether you're newly diagnosed, a longtime community member, a caregiver, or simply looking to build meaningful connections, Ruby Connection offers a supportive space where every voice is valued. Meetings are held from 7-8pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month during January-March and September-November.

Each month features engaging conversations, educational topics, guest speakers, or fun activities designed to empower women while fostering friendships across Michigan. We invite you to join us from the comfort of your home as we laugh, learn, and encourage one another.

Ruby Connection is also growing beyond Michigan. Several women in our National Women's Conference leadership group have received training and support from HFM to bring

this model back to their local communities. This exciting expansion reflects a shared commitment to building strong, connected networks of support for women everywhere.

We hope you'll join us for Ruby Connection. Whether it's your first time attending or you're a familiar face, we'd love to have you with us! For more information or to register, please visit HFM's events page, watch your email, and follow our social media channels for upcoming event details. 💧

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A DAY ON THE GREEN: HFM COMMUNITY AT TOPGOLF TEEING OFF TOGETHER



Eighteen HFM community members recently gathered for an evening of connection, learning, and fun at Top Golf. Once again, we proved that golf can be a lot of fun and a great sport for individuals with bleeding disorders who are looking to be more active.

The evening began with dinner and an inspiring presentation from golf pro Perry Parker, who shared his personal story and the experiences that shaped his journey. His message highlighted the importance of perseverance, finding joy in the activities you love, and embracing opportunities to connect with others. While we can't all be golf pros, our hope is that attendees took inspiration to dedicate themselves to whatever they are passionate about.

Following dinner, Perry took everyone to the driving bays for a hands-on golf lesson. Participants learned the

fundamentals of grip, stance, and swing before putting their new skills into practice. Whether they were picking up a golf club for the first time or already had experience, everyone had the chance to improve their swing while enjoying plenty of laughter and conversation.

HFM extends its sincere gratitude to CSL Behring for sponsoring and to Perry Parker for sharing both his expertise and his inspiring story. We can't wait to do it again! 💎

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**HEMLIBRA: TRUSTED
BY THE COMMUNITY FOR
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FROM OUR COMMUNITY**

First approved in 2017* | Over 9,000 people in the US treated with HEMLIBRA†

*November 2017: FDA approval for adults and children with hemophilia A with factor VIII inhibitors.

†Number of people with hemophilia A treated with HEMLIBRA in the US as of November 2025.

INDICATION & IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is HEMLIBRA?

HEMLIBRA is a prescription medicine used for routine prophylaxis to prevent or reduce the frequency of bleeding episodes in adults and children, ages newborn and older, with hemophilia A with or without factor VIII inhibitors.

What is the most important information I should know about HEMLIBRA?

HEMLIBRA increases the potential for your blood to clot. People who use activated prothrombin complex concentrate (aPCC; Feiba®) to treat breakthrough bleeds while taking HEMLIBRA may be at risk of serious side effects related to blood clots.

These serious side effects include:

- **Thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA)**, a condition involving blood clots and injury to small blood vessels that may cause harm to your kidneys, brain, and other organs
- **Blood clots (thrombotic events)**, which may form in blood vessels in your arm, leg, lung, or head

Carefully follow your healthcare provider's instructions regarding when to use an on-demand bypassing agent or factor VIII, and the dose and schedule to use for breakthrough bleed treatment. If aPCC (Feiba®) is needed, talk to your healthcare provider in case you feel you need more than 100 U/kg of aPCC (Feiba®) total.

Your body may make antibodies against HEMLIBRA, which may stop HEMLIBRA from working properly. Contact your healthcare provider immediately if you notice that HEMLIBRA has stopped working for you (eg, increase in bleeds).

Please see Brief Summary of Medication Guide on following page for Important Safety Information, including **Serious Side Effects**.



Medication Guide
HEMLIBRA® (hem-lee-bruh)
(emicizumab-kxwh)
injection, for subcutaneous use

What is the most important information I should know about HEMLIBRA?

HEMLIBRA increases the potential for your blood to clot. Carefully follow your healthcare provider's instructions regarding when to use an on-demand bypassing agent or factor VIII (FVIII) and the recommended dose and schedule to use for breakthrough bleed treatment.

HEMLIBRA may cause the following serious side effects when used with activated prothrombin complex concentrate (aPCC; FEIBA®), including:

- **Thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA).** This is a condition involving blood clots and injury to small blood vessels that may cause harm to your kidneys, brain, and other organs. Get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms during or after treatment with HEMLIBRA:
 - confusion
 - weakness
 - swelling of arms and legs
 - yellowing of skin and eyes
 - stomach (abdomen) or back pain
 - nausea or vomiting
 - feeling sick
 - decreased urination
- **Blood clots (thrombotic events).** Blood clots may form in blood vessels in your arm, leg, lung, or head. Get medical help right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of blood clots during or after treatment with HEMLIBRA:
 - swelling in arms or legs
 - pain or redness in your arms or legs
 - shortness of breath
 - chest pain or tightness
 - fast heart rate
 - cough up blood
 - feel faint
 - headache
 - numbness in your face
 - eye pain or swelling
 - trouble seeing

If aPCC (FEIBA®) is needed, talk to your healthcare provider in case you feel you need more than 100 U/kg of aPCC (FEIBA®) total.

Your body may make antibodies against HEMLIBRA, which may stop HEMLIBRA from working properly. Contact your healthcare provider immediately if you notice that HEMLIBRA has stopped working for you (e.g. increase in bleeds).

See “What are the possible side effects of HEMLIBRA?” for more information about side effects.

What is HEMLIBRA?

HEMLIBRA is a prescription medicine used for routine prophylaxis to prevent or reduce the frequency of bleeding episodes in adults and children, ages newborn and older, with hemophilia A with or without factor VIII inhibitors.

Hemophilia A is a bleeding condition people can be born with where a missing or faulty blood clotting factor (factor VIII) prevents blood from clotting normally.

HEMLIBRA is a therapeutic antibody that bridges clotting factors to help your blood clot.

Before using HEMLIBRA, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if HEMLIBRA may harm your unborn baby. Females who are able to become pregnant should use birth control (contraception) during treatment with HEMLIBRA.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if HEMLIBRA passes into your breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I use HEMLIBRA?

See the detailed “Instructions for Use” that comes with your HEMLIBRA for information on how to prepare and inject a dose of HEMLIBRA, and how to properly throw away (dispose of) used needles and syringes.

- Use HEMLIBRA exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- **Stop (discontinue) prophylactic use of bypassing agents the day before starting HEMLIBRA prophylaxis.**
- **You may continue prophylactic use of FVIII for the first week of HEMLIBRA prophylaxis.**
- HEMLIBRA is given as an injection under your skin (subcutaneous injection) by you or a caregiver.

- Your healthcare provider should show you or your caregiver how to prepare, measure, and inject your dose of HEMLIBRA before you inject yourself for the first time.
- Do not attempt to inject yourself or another person unless you have been taught how to do so by a healthcare provider.
- Your healthcare provider will prescribe your dose based on your weight. If your weight changes, tell your healthcare provider.
- You will receive HEMLIBRA 1 time a week for the first four weeks. Then you will receive a maintenance dose as prescribed by your healthcare provider.
- If you miss a dose of HEMLIBRA on your scheduled day, you should give the dose as soon as you remember. You must give the missed dose as soon as possible before the next scheduled dose, and then continue with your normal dosing schedule. **Do not** give two doses on the same day to make up for a missed dose.
- HEMLIBRA may interfere with laboratory tests that measure how well your blood is clotting and may cause a false reading. Talk to your healthcare provider about how this may affect your care.

What are the possible side effects of HEMLIBRA?

- See “What is the most important information I should know about HEMLIBRA?”

The most common side effects of HEMLIBRA include:

- redness, tenderness, warmth, or itching at the site of injection
- headache
- joint pain

These are not all of the possible side effects of HEMLIBRA.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store HEMLIBRA?

- Store HEMLIBRA in the refrigerator at 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C). Do not freeze.
- Store HEMLIBRA in the original carton to protect the vials from light.
- Do not shake HEMLIBRA.
- If needed, unopened vials of HEMLIBRA can be stored out of the refrigerator and then returned to the refrigerator. HEMLIBRA should not be stored out of the refrigerator for more than a total of 7 days or at a temperature greater than 86°F (30°C).
- After HEMLIBRA is transferred from the vial to the syringe, HEMLIBRA should be used right away.
- Throw away (dispose of) any unused HEMLIBRA left in the vial.

Keep HEMLIBRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the safe and effective use of HEMLIBRA.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use HEMLIBRA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give HEMLIBRA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about HEMLIBRA that is written for health professionals.

What are the ingredients in HEMLIBRA?

Active ingredient: emicizumab-kxwh

Inactive ingredients: L-arginine, L-histidine, poloxamer 188, and L-aspartic acid.

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For more information, go to www.HEMLIBRA.com or call 1-866-HEMLIBRA.
This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Revised: 07/2025



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MICHIGAN PATIENTS COUNT ON COPAY ASSISTANCE: WHY “ALL COPAYS COUNT” MATTERS

For Michiganders living with bleeding disorders and other rare or chronic conditions, access to lifesaving medications often comes with significant financial challenges. While copay assistance programs help many patients afford their treatments, insurance company practices known as copay accumulator adjustment programs can undermine that support and create unnecessary barriers to care.

To address this issue, earlier this year, State Senator Stephanie Chang introduced Senate Bill 914, legislation that would ensure the full value of prescription drug copay assistance counts toward a patient's deductible and maximum out-of-pocket costs. This would help protect patients from unexpected medical expenses and improve access to the treatments they rely on.

HFM has been actively advocating for Senate Bill 914 alongside a coalition of patient organizations. In May, the bill received a hearing before the Michigan Senate Finance,

Insurance, and Consumer Protection Committee. HFM partnered with a patient advocate to provide testimony highlighting the real-world impact of copay accumulator programs and the importance of ensuring copay assistance counts toward patients' cost-sharing obligations.

Senate Bill 914 remains in committee awaiting further action. HFM will continue working with lawmakers, coalition partners, and patient advocates to advance this legislation and ensure that Michiganders living with serious and chronic health conditions can access the care they need without facing unnecessary financial barriers.

By passing this legislation, Michigan has the opportunity to protect patients, improve treatment adherence, and help families focus on managing their health—not navigating avoidable insurance obstacles or higher, unexpected costs. 💧

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June 2026 PP-HYM-USA-1213

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KEEP THE CAMP BOLD EAGLE FUN GOING!

Camp may be over, but the memories and friendships don't have to be! Take a trip down memory lane with our Camp Bold Eagle Scavenger Hunt. Grab a pencil and see how many camp treasures, keepsakes, and special memories you can find around your house. From camp T-shirts and crafts to new friends and favorite moments, how many can you check off? Happy hunting! ♡

CAMP BOLD EAGLE SCAVENGER HUNT

How many Camp Bold Eagle memories can you find?

THINGS YOU BROUGHT HOME

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Your Camp Bold Eagle T-shirt | ☐ A camp schedule or activity sheet |
| ☐ Your camp name tag or lanyard | ☐ A souvenir or prize you won |
| ☐ A friendship bracelet | ☐ Something signed by a friend or counselor |
| ☐ A craft you made at camp | ☐ A cabin keepsake |
| ☐ A photo from camp | ☐ Your water bottle with Camp Bold Eagle stickers (or a few new scratches from camp adventures!) |

CHECK YOUR CAMP BAG! CAN YOU STILL FIND...

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ An extra pair of camp socks | ☐ Your favorite camp hat |
| ☐ Sunscreen | ☐ A reusable water bottle |
| ☐ Bug spray | ☐ A towel that still reminds you of lake days |
| ☐ A flashlight | ☐ A notebook or journal you brought to camp |

THINGS YOU TOOK HOME THAT DON'T FIT IN A BACKPACK. THESE ARE THE BEST SOUVENIRS OF ALL!

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A new friend | ☐ A funny story you'll never forget |
| ☐ A favorite camp memory | ☐ A counselor who inspired you |
| ☐ More confidence | ☐ A reason to look forward to next summer |
| ☐ A new skill you learned | ☐ A smile every time someone says
"Camp Bold Eagle" |

BONUS CHALLENGE WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS!

What was your favorite camp activity?

What made you laugh the hardest?

Who was someone new you met this summer?

What's one thing you learned about yourself at
Camp Bold Eagle?

CAMP BOLD EAGLE CHALLENGE HOW MANY BOXES DID YOU CHECK?

0–10: Time to unpack your camp memories!

11–20: You're a Camp Bold Eagle Memory Master!

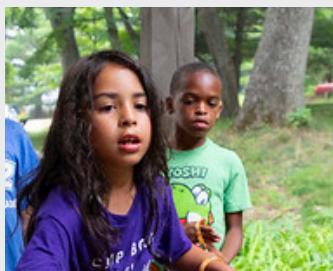
21–30: Wow! Camp Bold Eagle is still with you every day!

No matter how many you found, the best thing you brought home from Camp Bold Eagle is knowing you're part of an amazing community. We hope to see you back at camp next summer for even more adventures, friendships, and unforgettable memories!

EAGLE STEPS: 2026 CAMP RECAP

Eagle Journeys Camping Programs 2026 is a wrap! It was a season filled with great memories, plenty of Eagle Steps, and, of course, lots of singing and dancing. One of the most meaningful parts of camp is encouraging participants to take an Eagle Step—a step outside of their comfort zone—and creating a safe and supportive environment where they feel comfortable trying something new.

An Eagle Step can look different for everyone. It might mean trying a new food, learning how to cook a meal, making a new friend, or taking on an activity a camper has never tried before. No matter how big or small, each Eagle Step is an opportunity to build confidence, discover something new, and leave camp with a little more courage than when we arrived.



EAGLE QUEST

Eagle Quest is our rustic adult backpacking trip. This year, 10 participants hiked through the Manistee River Trail. In their pack, they brought food, clothes, shelter, and equipment for clean water! It was a great opportunity for each camper to get out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves while experiencing sights such as waterfalls, beautiful overlooks of the Manistee River, and the 245-foot-long Manistee River Little Mac suspension bridge.

EAGLES NEST FAMILY CAMP

Eagles Nest Family camp is for first-time campers and their families to experience the magic of Camp Bold Eagle! This is a great opportunity for new campers to see the various activities offered at camp. We had 9 families join us this year. They participated in a much-anticipated kickball tournament and enjoyed a "choose-your-own" adventure movie featuring our Associate Camp Directors, Travis and Gelli. New campers and their families got a firsthand glimpse into the daily adventures that make Camp Bold Eagle so special.

TEEN CAMP

Teen Camp, for ages 14-17, gives campers more choice during their program area rotations. This session, they enjoyed a fun "choose-your-own" movie night, Camp Family Feud, Dress to Impress, and Organized Chaos. Campers also learned useful skills at the teen "adulthood" program activities such as babysitting, to-do list making, changing tires, public library resources, and how to do laundry. Teen Camp is a fantastic opportunity for teens to discover more about themselves, to take more independence for their medical needs, and to step out of their comfort zone.

EAGLE OUTPOST

Eagle Outpost is our leadership camp for teens ages 14-15 and also serves as a leadership opportunity for younger camp staff. Our teens kicked off their adventure at Eagle Village Camp. They participated in activities like rock climbing, high ropes courses, and various team-building exercises. Each day, a cooking crew headed to the store to prepare a full day of meals. Participants learned leadership skills and took Eagle Steps throughout the week. The week closed with an adventure to Mackinac Island and Michigan's Upper Peninsula!

EAGLE EXPEDITION

Eagle Expedition is an adventurous opportunity for adult community members. Participants get to white water raft and kayak on the American River, as well as sea kayak out of the San Francisco Bay. This year the Eagle Expedition group sea kayaked to Angel Island where they were able to take a day hike around the island and see the Golden Gate Bridge! Expeditioners had a wonderful time up at the river camp where they cooked their own meals and worked as a team to have the best adventure down the river.

From hiking trails and paddling rivers to making new friends, learning new skills, and trying something for the first time, this year's camping programs were filled with opportunities to take an Eagle Step. Each program offered its own adventure, but they all shared the same goal: creating a place where members of the bleeding disorders community can challenge themselves, build confidence, learn more about their bleeding disorder, and make memories that last long after camp ends. Thank you to all of our campers, families, volunteers, and staff who made the 2026 season so special. We can't wait to see what adventures are waiting for us next year!

CAMP BOLD EAGLE

Camp Bold Eagle is our annual summer camp for kids with bleeding disorders. Session 1 is for ages 6-9, while session 2 is for ages 10-13. A camp day is filled with program area rotations of nature, arts and crafts, health education (Hi-C), waterfront, outdoor recreation, and archery. We sing songs and dance before every meal! Campers enjoyed exciting evening programs such as the Candy Land Quest, The Worstest Showman, and Daytime Carnival! Camp is a great place for creating lasting friendships and cherished memories. We hope to see you next year at Camp Bold Eagle.

The State of Michigan, and Camp Bold Eagle on Big Blue Lake, was severely impacted by the hazardous air quality caused by Canadian wildfires at the end of July. Due to the risk of serious health consequences, Camp Bold Eagle's Session 2 was unfortunately cancelled this year. While we were very disappointed, everyone's understanding was deeply appreciated.

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on what's
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"I am committed to being a resource
for the bleeding disorders community
via trust and educational partnerships."

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SAVE THE DATE!

2026 NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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**OCTOBER 2-4
THE WESTIN DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT**

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STAY ENGAGED YEAR-ROUND WITH HFM'S LOCAL ADVOCACY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Advocacy doesn't begin and end at Lansing Days. That's why HFM is launching the Local Advocacy Volunteer Program: an opportunity for members to build lasting relationships with their elected officials and help advance policies that support the bleeding disorders community throughout the year.

Local Advocacy Volunteers serve as HFM's grassroots advocates in their home communities by attending two to three in-district meetings, such as town halls or coffee hours, with their state legislators each year. These meetings provide valuable opportunities to introduce yourself, share your personal story, and establish a connection with the lawmakers and staff who represent your community. Even if you don't have an opportunity to discuss HFM's legislative priorities at every meeting, simply building that relationship can make a meaningful difference.

Volunteers are encouraged to subscribe to their legislators' email newsletters, follow them on social media, and report back to HFM after each meeting with a brief email or

phone call. These updates help HFM stay informed about conversations happening across the state and identify opportunities for future advocacy.

HFM staff will support Local Advocacy Volunteers every step of the way by identifying meeting opportunities, providing training before meetings, and sharing background information about legislators and current advocacy priorities. Whenever possible, HFM staff may also attend meetings alongside volunteers to provide additional support.

Whether you're new to advocacy or have years of experience, the Local Advocacy Volunteer Program is a great way to make your voice heard and ensure the needs of Michigan's bleeding disorders community are represented year-round. Together, we can strengthen relationships with policymakers and create lasting change for individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders. 💙



COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

TEEN ADULTING

At Camp Bold Eagle Teen Camp, we have a daily activity called “Adulting.” Offering Adulting sessions allows teens an opportunity to learn valuable life skills. Previous Adulting sessions include how to change a tire, how to tie a tie, how to write an advocacy letter, how to schedule an appointment, and so much more! This year teens were offered Adulting skills such as mastering a to do list, maintaining a bike, creating a vision board, sewing, and caring for an infant/baby with special guest Juniper Scott! We also had a full day of health adulting sessions where teens learned about infusion, menstruation, the clotting cascade, healthy joints, and our very own Artery Article writing session! Below are the amazing articles our teens crafted during their Artery Article Adulting session. ♦

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“THEY MAKE BEING A BLEEDER A LITTLE BIT EASIER, BECAUSE THEY CAN RELATE TO IT.”

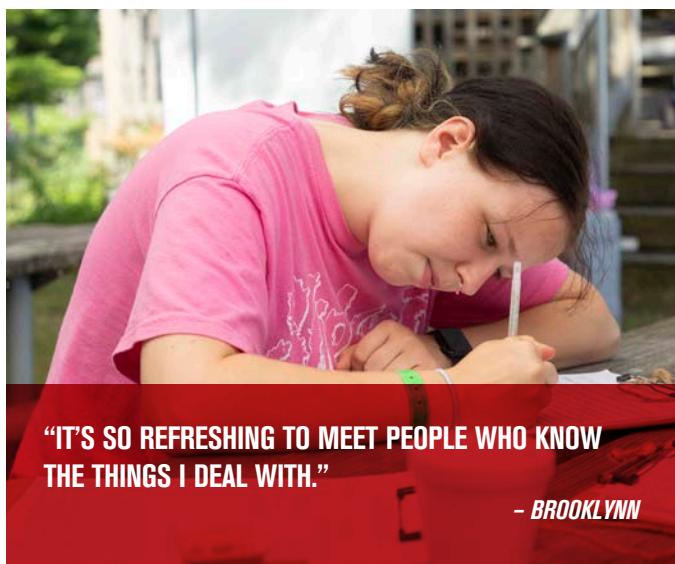
— KAYTLYN

KAYTLYN S., 17 | CABIN 14

Hi! My name is Kaytlyn! I was diagnosed with von Willebrand Disease at age 3 or 4, and I've been going to Camp Bold Eagle since I was old enough. My one word of advice is to never stop coming to camp, as long as you can. If you turn 18, become a staff member. There is no reason to stop!

I love this camp!

I have a bit of trouble making friends because I am a very secluded person who has trouble talking to people I don't know. I have made some amazing friends here at camp, who I never would have met if I never came. Some of them live hours away and some live quite close. They make being a bleeder a little bit easier, because they can relate to it.



"IT'S SO REFRESHING TO MEET PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE THINGS I DEAL WITH."

— BROOKLYNN

BROOKLYNN, 17 | CABIN 5

I am 17 years old and I've been attending Camp Bold Eagle for three years. I was diagnosed with von Willebrand Disease in seventh grade and have had a long journey learning how to care for myself and advocate for myself.

One amazing thing having VWD has brought me is the community I've built at camp. Between counselors, other campers, and our amazing staff, I've felt so seen and important. The relationships you build when you realize there are so many people just like you who you can relate to. Before camp, the only people I knew with VWD were my mom and brother. It's so refreshing to meet people who know the things I deal with.

I'm so grateful for camp and all the opportunities it's given me. I couldn't recommend a better place for all people with bleeding disorders. I miss camp all year round.

BEN, 15 | CABIN 9

My favorite memories from camp always come from someone being kind. At camp someone could be having the worst day of their lives, however, one person can change that day by just being kind and inclusive, which is what camp is truly about.



"MY FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM CAMP ALWAYS COME FROM SOMEONE BEING KIND."

— BEN



"BE SAFE, BE KIND, BE CAMP."

— ANNELISE

Annelise (left) with her Camp Bold Eagle friend, Sophie.

ANNELISE, 16 | CABIN 11

"Be safe, be kind, be camp." Those are the words you'll hear a million times every day as a camper at Camp Bold Eagle. I applied these principles to my life at camp the best I could.

I was diagnosed with von Willebrand Disease at 14, just two weeks before Camp Bold Eagle 2024. My mom encouraged me to go, but I was hesitant because I had never been to summer camp—or even camping—before. I eventually decided to go, and I had a great time. I found that most teens in this community are the nicest people I have ever met. I made lots of friends and went back to camp in 2025. My second time at camp, I saw a girl who I would love to be friends with, but I was struggling with social anxiety at the time. Halfway through camp, a counselor asked me to introduce myself to her. I did, and we have been best friends ever since. We always joke that, if there is some divine creator, they made an error and put the same soul into two different people. Sophie really saved my life, and that's why I will always come back to camp.

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*Because She
Matters*

STAFF UPDATES

As our advocacy program continues to grow, we are also marking a meaningful transition within the HFM team.

After three years of dedicated service, Zach Ryan has concluded his time with the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan. In a heartfelt farewell, he shared his appreciation for the community he had the privilege of serving.

"Thank you for welcoming me into this incredible community and allowing me to advocate both on your behalf and alongside you. At the end of May, my wife and I relocated to the East Coast as she begins her medical residency in Boston. While this move is an exciting new chapter for our family, leaving the Michigan bleeding disorders community is truly bittersweet. Reflecting on the past three years, I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the opportunity to work with such passionate advocates, families, and partners. HFM and this community will always hold a special place in my heart."



On June 1, 2026, Melina Brann joined the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan as our new Government Relations & Communications Manager.

Melina brings extensive experience in public policy, advocacy, and nonprofit leadership, with a strong background working alongside statewide health access organizations. In her role, she will lead HFM's advocacy and government relations efforts by expanding patient engagement and education opportunities, monitoring access-to-care issues affecting the bleeding disorders community, and advancing policy initiatives that improve the lives of those we serve.

Melina is excited to connect with members, families, volunteers, and partners across Michigan as she settles into her new role and continues building upon HFM's strong tradition of advocacy.

Please join us in welcoming Melina to the HFM community!

Together, we look forward to continuing our advocacy efforts and ensuring every person affected by a bleeding disorder has a strong voice in Michigan and beyond. 💙

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan is proud to continue to provide an academic scholarship to two recipients, a decades-long tradition of supporting bleeding disorders patients as they launch into the next phase of their lives. This year, the two recipients awarded the annual scholarship are Skylar Marteen and Katherine Miller. Both Skylar and Katherine have plans to attend the University of Michigan this fall with intentions on pursuing careers in medicine. Congratulations to both Katherine and Skylar, and best wishes on both of your freshmen years at the University of Michigan! 💧



Skylar shares, "Thank you so much to the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan for this incredible honor. I am truly grateful for this scholarship and for the support you've shown me. Through this journey, I've learned so much about my condition, but even more importantly, I've realized there is an entire community here to support me and others every step of the way. That sense of connection and strength means everything. I'm inspired to keep learning, growing, and giving back to this community that has given me so much."



Katherine says, "I look forward to attending the University of Michigan in the fall. I will be majoring in neuroscience with a minor in bioethics on the pre-med track. In the future, I plan on attending medical school to become a physician."

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DELTA DENTAL

ARE YOU UNINSURED OR UNDERINSURED WITH YOUR DENTAL COVERAGE? IF YOU ARE, WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.

We understand that even with insurance, our community faces challenges in obtaining dental care to meet our unique and individual needs. In partnership with Cascade Hemophilia Consortium, HFM can offer dental care coverage to those who need it.

To be eligible for this program you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have a bleeding disorder.
- Be a Michigan resident.
- Have no dental insurance or only Children's Special Health Care Services.
- If you have other coverage like Medicare, Medicaid or employer sponsored plans, you are not eligible unless you have special circumstances (ex: extensive dental work) that will not be covered by your existing coverage.
- You may be eligible for time-limited coverage based on special circumstances—these exceptions are limited and determined on a case-by-case basis. Please call us for more information.

To be eligible for the following benefit year, you must visit the dentist for two cleanings during the calendar year as well as complete the renewal application. The renewal application is sent out every year in October.

This program provides \$1000 in dental coverage. Regular teeth cleanings (not extensive cleanings) and limited x-rays are included in addition to the \$1000 coverage. There is currently no premium charged for this program.

It is important to always consult with your hematologist before getting dental work completed; and always get a pre-treatment estimate from your dentist before having any dental work done.

You may have already submitted your 2027 application, if not please make sure to get it in before January 31, 2027! 💧



IF YOU HAVE AN APPLICATION OR ELIGIBILITY QUESTION, CONTACT DANA BRENDHECKE-CARRIER, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR,
AT DBRENDECKECARRIER@HFMICH.ORG OR 734-544-0015.

MSU SPOTLIGHT

As the Regional Core Center for the Great Lakes Region (Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio), the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan (HFM) works closely with the nineteen Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) that provide specialized care throughout the region. While each center is vital in supporting individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders, HFM would like to recognize Michigan State University's Center for Bleeding and Clotting for its exceptional resilience, dedication, and steadfast commitment to patient-centered care.

Throughout a period of significant organizational transition, the Center has remained focused on its core mission: delivering comprehensive, high-quality healthcare to individuals and families living with bleeding disorders. Like many healthcare organizations, the Center has navigated staff retirements, restructuring, workforce shortages, and the recruitment and onboarding of new team members. At the same time, the clinic also undertook the task of relocating to a new facility. Despite these challenges, MSU's multidisciplinary care team ensured patients continued to receive the individualized, compassionate care they depend on.

The Center has also strengthened collaboration across Michigan's bleeding disorders community. When specialized resources or expertise were unavailable within the clinic, the MSU care team actively partnered with social workers, nurses, physicians, and

other professionals at fellow HTCs in the region to identify solutions and connect patients with the support they needed. This spirit of collaboration has extended beyond clinical care—MSU has remained an engaged partner in HFM's Upper Peninsula Retreats, SpringFest, and National Women's Conference by contributing knowledgeable clinicians and subject matter experts to educate, support, and empower community members.

The Center's commitment to excellence is equally evident in its investment in professional development. Team members consistently participate in local, regional, and national conferences, trainings, and professional meetings, demonstrating a dedication to lifelong learning and the advancement of bleeding disorders care. Their ongoing engagement strengthens not only their own clinical expertise but also the collaborative network that serves patients throughout the Great Lakes region.

HFM appreciates Michigan State University's Center for Bleeding and Clotting for its resilience, perseverance, and commitment to the bleeding disorders community. Through every challenge, the Center has remained focused on delivering exceptional care while fostering meaningful collaboration and advancing the field through education and partnership. MSU's leadership is an example of what is possible when compassion, expertise, and commitment to patients remain at the heart of healthcare. 🩸





734. 544.0015

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UPCOMING 2026 EVENTS

October 2-4

National Women's Conference  

Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport

October 9-11

Bleeder & a Buddy 

Camp Copneconic, Fenton

October 9

Community Night: Myrtle & Maudes 

Traverse City

October 15

Ruby Connection  

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
OTHER UPCOMING HFM EVENTS,
PLEASE VISIT HFMICH.ORG/EVENTS

November 2

Men's Support Group  

November 19

Blood Buds: Virtual Video Game Night  

November 24

Ruby Connection: Glimmers of Gratitude  

December 5

End of the Year Community Gathering 

Troy

 Virtual
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