

The Clotting Connection

A Newsletter for Families with Bleeding and Clotting Disorders

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Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



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OCTOBER IS PHARMACY MONTH

Did you know that October is American Pharmacists Month? During the month we also celebrate pharmacy week, a time to recognize the hard work our pharmacy team does all year!

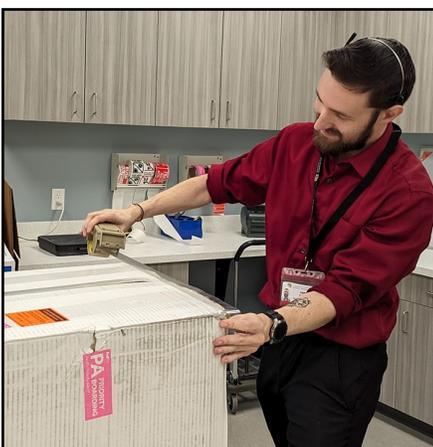
What makes our HTC Pharmacy different?

Our HTC Pharmacy is one of only a few dually accredited specialty pharmacies (URAC and ACHC) in the U.S., and is designated as a 340B Pharmacy. This means that the pharmacy is specialized in medications for the bleeding disorder community. The 340B designation allows our pharmacy to operate as a non-profit organization and purchase bleeding disorder medication at a discount, with the stipulation that the profits be invested into the HTC and lower the cost of care for patients.

Unlike other pharmacies, our HTC Pharmacy only fills factor-related prescriptions for bleeding disorder patients, allowing our team to be experts in all the prescribed options to treat each patient. Our HTC Pharmacy works side-by-side with our providers, nurses, physical therapists, and psychosocial team in clinic to make sure our patients have access to the right bleeding disorder medication and care they need.



Our HTC Pharmacy (back row L-R) Suzanne Kasim, Candice Murchison, Clair Kaiser, Talia Garramone. (front row L-R) Bruce Young, Desiree Hill, Derrick Keesling. Not pictured, Trish Tucker, Tiffany Tran, Michelle Krey. Photo: Merilee Ashton



Derrick, one of our pharmacy techs, prepares a package of medication for mailing out to a patient. Photo: Merilee Ashton

Who is on our HTC Pharmacy Team?

Our pharmacy team is an incredible group of people dedicated to patient care. Our Pharmacy Manager is Desiree Hill, who leads our team with passion, kindness, and good humor. Clair Kaiser, Bruce Young, and Suzanne Kasim are clinical pharmacists on our staff, and they interact with our patients often about their medications. Talia Garramone and Derrick Keesling are our pharmacy technicians, who work with the pharmacists in getting medications mailed out to patients. Our pharmacy team also includes Trish Tucker-administrative assistant, Candice Murchison-insurance specialist, Tiffany Tran and Michelle Krey, who are our pharmacy interns.

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Happy Halloween! We hope you have some safe, spooky fun! We will be open on Halloween, but see our website for upcoming holiday closures in Nov and Dec!

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- Meet Pharmacist Suzanne Kasim
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Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and our website for frequent updates on news and events.



Go to [facebook.com/ColoradoHTC](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoHTC)



Go to twitter.com/HTCColorado



Website: Go to

medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis



Email:

HTC.Newsletter@ucdenver.edu

SPOTLIGHT: SUZANNE KASIM, PHARMACIST



Suzanne Kasim, PharmD, one of our HTC Pharmacists. Photo: Merilee Ashton

If you have worked with our pharmacy over the past year, you may have spoken with one of our newer pharmacists, Suzanne Kasim. Suzanne is a clinical pharmacist who has been working in our pharmacy on a part-time basis for the past year.

Suzanne is originally Palestinian and immigrated to the United States with her parents in 1978 to California. She grew up there and still considers

it to be her home. Her extended family began to immigrate to the United States in the 1940's and her immediate family was the last to arrive. She graduated from UCLA with a BS in Biology and followed that with her Doctor of Pharmacy at UCSF. She completed a PGY1 Clinical Pharmacy residency at UCI and has used her expertise to provide service and care to patients ever since. In 2021, Suzanne moved to Colorado and joined our team last year.

Suzanne was drawn to helping those with bleeding disorders by gratitude. She shared, ***“What you and I take for granted, like a simple cut while playing basketball for example... is a challenge for children and adults with hemophilia. I am grateful that I***

am a part of the team that makes a blood disorder patient's life easier; helping them with their medications or admiring their courage.”

As a part of her duties at the HTC Pharmacy, Suzanne collaborates with other team members at the HTC clinic to provide comprehensive and complete care for patients. She answers calls from patients, takes their orders, fills, and checks orders before they are sent out. She enjoys connecting with patients and finding ways to understand what they are going through in their lives and tries to make a difference, even in short conversations. She feels blessed and grateful she can work with the HTC team to help others live better. She enjoys the supportive and positive environment in our pharmacy and HTC.

Suzanne loves walking in nature and especially loves bodies of water like oceans, seas, lakes and rivers. When she travels, she always tries to find a place where there is at least a river to hear or see. Being in nature is something that reminds her of the gifts and blessings she has been given in life.

Suzanne is a delightful person who is always trying to improve herself and learn from her mistakes. Her favorite book is *“Blink”* by Malcom Gladwell, she loves watermelon, and shared that her favorite quote is by Rumi: ***“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.”***

We are so glad to get to work with Suzanne in our pharmacy, and we are all blessed by her positive attitude, kindness, and willingness to provide care to all.

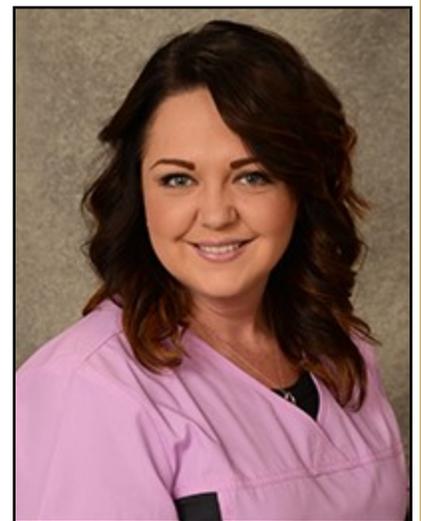
AMY COWELL LEAVES HTC AFTER NINE YEARS OF SERVICE

Over the past nine years if you came to our HTC clinic it is very likely you have met with our wonderful HTC Medical Assistant Amy Cowell. Amy has accepted a new opportunity in healthcare that is closer to her home, so her last day at our HTC will be on November 3, 2023. Amy has been such a kind and gentle presence in our clinic, not to mention being incredibly good at giving shots. She has performed thousands of blood draw samples that have been used in patient research with a calm and professional skill that is hard to find!

Amy has always been the first to greet patients, and the first to welcome new staff members to our HTC. She cares about all those she meets and can find a way to solve problems that come up in our busy clinic. Our HTC staff will miss her terribly, but we know she will be an tremendous asset to anyone she works with.

Amy shared, ***“I can not express how much appreciation I have to the HTC team and most of all the patients and families. I consider myself so lucky to have gained many relationships and knowledge working with the HTC Community over the last 9 years. I will forever hold a special place in my heart for all. I look forward to still learning more about the exciting changes and updates in the care of our patients in the future!”***

We will miss Amy, but we wish her the best of luck in her new adventures!



Amy Cowell, our Medical Assistant, is leaving the HTC after nine years for a new opportunity in healthcare. We will miss you Amy!

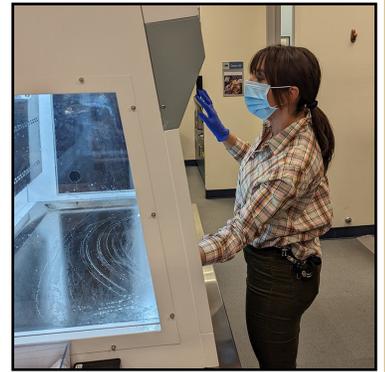
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Who can use our HTC Pharmacy?

Our specialized HTC Pharmacy serves only established patients at our HTC, and we can only fill bleeding disorder medication orders from our HTC providers. Our team will fill medication for all Medicaid patients (except Nebraska) that can self-infuse or have someone who can infuse for them at home. Our pharmacy also fills these prescriptions for Medicare patients, Kaiser plans, and most Anthem plans. If you work for a large business, chances are good that your company funds your health care insurance. For these plans, the HTC Pharmacy can negotiate with your employer to have hemophilia and bleeding disorder medications filled by the HTC Pharmacy and not the contracted pharmacy. This saves the company money and supports the HTC at the same time. If you would like to fill your bleeding disorder prescriptions through our HTC Pharmacy, please call our pharmacy team.

Our HTC Pharmacy is happy to answer any questions and help patients and families understand complex insurance issues with filling bleeding disorder medications. Our pharmacy is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. To contact them, call 303-724-0168 or toll free at 1-888-724-7427.

Our pharmacy and clinic follow the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus holiday calendar. [Our holiday closures are posted at our website](#), as well as a [pharmacy mailing schedule](#) that shows how much time is needed to order before medication can arrive. If you need to contact our pharmacy after-hours, in an emergency, or during a holiday, we have a pharmacist on call, and you can reach them by calling our main number and following the prompts. You can also email our team at hemophilia@ucdenver.edu.



Talia Garramone cleans one of our pharmacy compounding areas in our HTC Pharmacy. Photo: Merilee Ashton

The HTC would not operate in any way close to the level of care we are able to provide without the integrated support of our HTC Pharmacy! We celebrate their dedication to our patients, their constancy and hard work to support both patients and families, and we are grateful for the huge part they play in making the HTC a powerful resource for so many!

UPCOMING EVENTS & HOLIDAY CLOSURES



As the holidays approach, be aware that our clinic, pharmacy, and admin offices will have closures that may impact your care or ability to get your medication.

Clinic, Pharmacy, and Admin Offices are closed on the following dates:
Thurs.-Fri. Nov 23-24, 2023: Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon.-Tue. Dec 25-26, 2023: Christmas Holiday
Mon. Jan 1, 2024: New Year's Day

modified schedule; availability and services may be limited. Please see our [pharmacy shipping page](#) for an updated schedule of holiday shipping deadlines.

See our [holiday closure calendar on our website contact page](#). Please be aware that our clinic will be open between Dec 27-29, 2023 but with a

NBDF (formerly known as NHF) Colorado has several upcoming events for the remainder of 2023. Please see the [cohemo.org website for more details and to register for these events](http://cohemo.org).



Thurs. Nov 2, 2023, 6-8 pm: Gene Therapy and Hemophilia B Dinner Program at Maggiano's in the DTC in Centennial. Dr. Richard Lemons from the University of Utah will be speaking. Please RSVP at cohemo.org by Oct. 30, 2023 to secure your spot.

Tues. Nov 28, 2023, 5-8 pm: NBDF Annual Holiday Party at South Suburban Family Recreation Center in Centennial. Join the NBDF team for a fun holiday party, with a host of activities, a taco bar buffet, unlimited access to the rock wall, bumper cars, and laser tag. Plus, you can enjoy a fun Eurobungy session as well! Should be a lot of fun and a good opportunity to connect with others in the bleeding disorder community. RSVP at cohemo.org by Nov 21, 2023 to secure your spot.



Mon. Dec 11, 2023, 6-8 pm: NBDF Annual Stakeholder Meeting at Castlewood Library in Centennial. Patients and individuals impacted by bleeding disorders are invited to come together to discuss current and future public policy needs, health equity, and share perspectives. Your participation contributes to a stronger and more informed community.

RECENT HEADLINES

These are a few of the headlines that we've recently featured on our Newsroom page or on Social Media:

Over Half of Hemophilia Patients Hide Symptoms & Don't Share Negative Impacts

Study Shows Hemophilia Survival Rate Disparities

FDA Grants Orphan Drug Status to Baudax Bio's TI-168 for Hemophilia A w/Inhibitors

Colorado Man Shares Positive Results from Gene Therapy Treatment

Analysis Shows Preventative Treatment with Extended Half-Life Products Improve Outcomes Over On-Demand Care

NHF Changes Name to NBDF to Include All Bleeding Disorders

We maintain a newsroom page at our website with a list of news articles that may be of interest to our patients and families. Go to medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/resources/newsroom to read more. We also share news on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

Sign up to get this newsletter delivered directly to your email box each month! Just go to eepurl.com/bnszoz or scan the QR code and fill out the form!



QR Code to Subscribe!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars:

Please note. These dates may be tentative and subject to change. Please check appropriate websites for confirmation of events.

Nov 2: NBDF Colorado Gene Therapy and Hemophilia B Dinner Program

Nov 3-5: RMHBDA Women's Retreat—Chico Hot Springs, Pray, MT

Nov 5: Daylight Saving Time Ends

Nov 11: Veterans Day

Nov 23-24: Clinic, Pharmacy, and Admin offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov 28: NBDF Colorado Holiday Party

Dec 6: Pediatric Stroke Parent Support Group In-Person Holiday Party

See more at our Events Page on our website: medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis/resources/events-calendar

ME-WE-HTC We create hope.

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or toll free at 888-297-0724

Pharmacy Main: 303-724-0168

or toll free at 888-724-7427

Web page:

medschool.cuanschutz.edu/hemophilia-thrombosis

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