

RECOMBINANT FACTOR VIII FOR THE TREATMENT OF HAEMOPHILIA A

How a subsidised treatment transformed the life of a young patient with haemophilia

Mr Dominic Luiz Yi Hsien Vaz was only six days old when he was diagnosed with haemophilia A, following a routine heel prick test for jaundice. Haemophilia A is a lifelong condition that affects the body's ability to clot blood due to a lack of clotting factor VIII—a protein essential for blood clotting. As a result, individuals with haemophilia A bleed for longer than usual. They can have internal bleeding into joints and muscles, or external bleeding due to injury, dental procedures or surgery¹.

Dominic's diagnosis came as a complete surprise to his family, who had no known history of the condition. "We only fully comprehended the impact of the diagnosis when he started walking and injuring himself," shared Ms Grace Vaz, Dominic's mother.

Growing up, Dominic faced considerable challenges. He often had to rely on crutches or a wheelchair due to repeated joint bleeds, limiting his mobility and participation in everyday activities with his peers. At his worst, he experienced up to 14 joint bleeds a year.

The financial burden on Dominic's family was significant. His initial treatment involved thrice-weekly infusions of a recombinant factor VIII product, costing around \$100 per dose. This treatment replaces the missing factor VIII to prevent bleeds or reduce how often they occur.

At age four, Dominic required more frequent treatments and received daily infusions through a port-a-cath (an implantable port placed under the skin at the chest area to allow administration of medications). Medical expenses soared to nearly \$10,000 per month for almost two years. "These were very stressful times managing the medical needs of a young child while trying to keep up with the costs of treatment," recalled Ms Vaz.

A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE WITH SUBSIDISED RECOMBINANT FACTOR VIII

A turning point came when the Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) conducted health technology assessments on recombinant factor VIII products for the prophylaxis and management of haemophilia A. ACE also conducted pricing negotiations with the companies to ensure that prices of recombinant factor VIII products were commensurate with the value they delivered to patients. Products that were assessed to be clinically proven and cost-effective were recommended for subsidy by the Ministry of Health Drug Advisory Committee.

With subsidies in place, Dominic's treatment costs were reduced substantially. Now 19 years old, Dominic experiences fewer bleeding episodes,

and finds his treatment regimen more manageable. "I no longer have to do modified Physical Education lessons to avoid injuries. I can join more activities with my friends. The subsidy provided for my treatment has vastly improved my quality of life," he shared.

Through health technology assessments and value-based pricing negotiations with companies, ACE helps make effective, high-cost treatments more accessible to patients in Singapore. Healthcare professionals are encouraged to discuss the range of available treatments with their patients to support informed, value-based healthcare decisions.

From October 2025, MediShield Life will expand coverage to include treatments for haemophilia that are clinically proven and cost-effective². This will further improve treatment affordability and ensure appropriate care for patients with haemophilia.



1 www.singhealth.com.sg/patient-care/conditions-treatments/haemophilia-childhood-illnesses
2 <https://www.cpf.gov.sg/member/infohub/news/cpf-related-announcements/medishield-life-2024-review>

ACE NEWS

LATEST TECHNOLOGY GUIDANCES

ACE's Technology Guidances explain funding recommendations made by MOH's Drug Advisory Committee (DAC) and Medical Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) for evaluated health technologies. They also include the Committee's rationale for the funding recommendations and a summary of key clinical and economic evidence that informed their deliberations.



LATEST CLINICAL GUIDANCES

ACE's Clinical Guidances (ACGs) provide concise, evidence-based recommendations to inform specific areas of clinical practice and serve as a common starting point nationally for clinical decision-making. Each ACG is developed in collaboration with a multidisciplinary group of local experts representing relevant specialties and practice settings. ACGs are not exhaustive of the subject matter and do not replace clinical judgement.



Scan or click here to view the latest ACGs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Healthcare professionals can earn 1 CME/CPE point for every ACG read.





SPOTLIGHT

LAUNCH OF ACE'S GUIDELINES FOR GUIDELINES (G4G) AND THE ACE CLINICAL GUIDANCE (ACG) METHODS AND PROCESSES MANUAL

Clinical guidelines are essential tools that support clinical decision-making by offering clear, evidence-based recommendations. However, their effectiveness depends on the quality and rigour of their development.

To support local guideline developers who wish to produce evidence-based, relevant, high-quality clinical guidelines for the Singapore healthcare setting, ACE has developed nine minimum standards or "Guidelines for Guidelines (G4G)"—which are in line with existing reputable sources of criteria for guideline quality, such as the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation II (AGREE II) instrument, the GIN McMaster Guideline Development checklist, and the IOM Standards for Trustworthy Guidelines. The newly launched G4G guide is the first in a series of resources supporting local clinical guidance development.

Stakeholders who are interested in

understanding how ACE develops and implements clinical guidelines may also refer to the ACG Methods and Processes, a comprehensive documentation of ETPO's internal methodology, processes and recommendation-making frameworks for evidence synthesis, recommendation formulation, peer review, and implementation planning.

Download the G4G guide [here](#).
Download the ACG processes and methods manual [here](#).



AVBC CONFERENCE 16-17 OCTOBER

The Appropriate and Value-Based Care (AVBC) Conference 2025 will take place from 16th to 17th October 2025!

A natural evolution of previous ACE VBHC Conferences, this year's event marks a significant step in Singapore's efforts to embed value-based care into policy and practice.

Centred on the theme "Maximising Value for All", the conference highlights our commitment to placing AVBC at the heart of healthcare planning and decision-making. It will spotlight how AVBC is being implemented across the health system—from policy and financing to clinical practice and patient engagement.

Register and secure your seat [here](#).
For queries, contact us at avbc_conference_secretariat@moh.gov.sg.



12TH HTASIALINK CONFERENCE 19-22 AUGUST

Singapore will host the 12th HTAsiaLink Conference from 19th to 22nd August 2025, bringing together experts and thought leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region to explore how Health Technology Assessment (HTA) can unlock greater healthcare value.

This year's theme champions the power of regional collaboration in addressing shared healthcare challenges and opportunities. The conference will feature plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities for professionals involved in HTA research and evidence-based policy making. HTAsiaLink's membership spans HTA institutions, government agencies, academics, research organisations, and professionals in the field of HTA.



HTAI 2025 ANNUAL MEETING 14-18 JUNE

ACE was honoured to participate in the prestigious Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) Annual Meeting 2025, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Representatives from ACE's Medical Technology Evaluation – Horizon Scanning (MTE – HS), Consumer Engagement and Education (CEE), and Economic Modelling & Outcomes Evaluation (EMOE) teams delivered presentations, shared Singapore's initiatives in the patient involvement workshop, and facilitated a panel session.

Aligned with the conference theme, "NextGen Evidence: Diversifying and Advancing HTA to Meet Global Demands", our contributions spotlighted Singapore's efforts in identifying promising technologies early, incorporating patient perspectives, and strengthening local capabilities in economic evaluation.

By sharing our practices and learning from international counterparts, ACE continues to refine its methodologies and frameworks—enabling timely, evidence-based, and patient-centred decisions in clinical care and technology adoption.

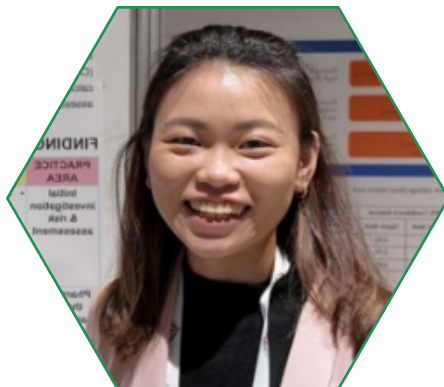
Our participation reflects Singapore's growing role in the global HTA community and commitment to delivering better value and outcomes for patients.

INSIDE ACE: A PEEK INTO WHAT WE DO

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION: SUPPORTING VALUE-BASED HEALTHCARE

As a Specialist in ETPO, I specialise in formative research to support the development of ACE Clinical Guidances (ACGs). My work helps identify disease burdens, healthcare gaps, and clinical needs in Singapore through a combination of scientific and economic literature reviews, national healthcare data analysis, and engagements with frontline practitioners.

Beyond research, I help scope and frame clinical guidances to ensure they are contextualised, relevant, and actionable. This foundational work supports my colleagues in developing guidances that are not only evidence-based, but also empower clinicians to deliver value-based, patient-centred care tailored to Singapore's healthcare needs.



Ms Yang Jing Xi, Specialist from the Evidence to Practice Office, transforms complex research into practical clinical guidances that shape evidence-based healthcare.

MISCONCEPTION

Many people assume that developing clinical guidances is straightforward—just convene a few experts, agree on a topic, and draft a few recommendations. But in reality, it's a rigorous, systematic, and iterative process. We triangulate insights from published literature, local clinical data, and expert input to ensure that every recommendation is robust, practical, and tailored to local clinical settings.

WHAT INSPIRES ME

I find it deeply meaningful to contribute to shaping healthcare practices and driving better healthcare outcomes through creating relevant and useful clinical guidances. Knowing that my work helps empower clinicians and improve the lives of patients makes every challenge worthwhile.

PAST EVENTS

VISIT BY PROF ANDREW WILSON 21–23 JAN

ACE was honoured to host Professor Andrew Wilson, Chair of Australia's Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Review Implementation Advisory Group. Over three days, he shared valuable insights into Australia's evolving HTA landscape. The visit reinforced the need for HTA agencies worldwide keeping pace with rapid developments in healthcare. Through a series of engagement sessions, the ACE team reflected on our own evolving methods and processes, and explored how HTA can better address future healthcare resource challenges.



ETPO APPRECIATION NIGHT 13 MAY

ACE's Evidence to Practice Office (ETPO) hosted its inaugural appreciation dinner on 13 May 2025 to honour members of the ACE Clinical Guidance (ACG) Expert Groups (EG) and the Evidence to Practice Advisory Committee (ETPAC). Set against the scenic backdrop of the Singapore River at the Asian Civilisations Museum, over 100 guests joined the evening, graced by Guest-of-Honour Professor Kenneth Mak, Director-General of Health (DGH).

The event recognised the invaluable contributions of EG members in supporting the development and implementation of clinical guidance in Singapore, from reviewing both international and local guidelines, to assessing the strength of evidence, and advising on the relevance of the ACG recommendations for local practice. Highlights included the launch of Guidelines for Guidelines (G4G) and a fireside chat featuring Prof Kenneth Mak, DGH (MOH), A/Prof Bee Yong Mong, Head and Senior Consultant of the Endocrinology Department in SGH, Dr Tan Tze Lee, Family Physician at The Edinburgh Clinic, Dr Phyllis Kim, Head ETPO (ACE), and moderator Dr Daphne Khoo, then Executive Director of ACE.



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