#### Hemostasis and Thrombosis Center





# **AFRIN Facts Sheet**

# What is Afrin?

- Generic: Oxymetazoline
- Pharmaceutical category: Decongestant,
  vasoconstrictor

### What is it used for?

- Nasal congestion
- Nosebleeds

#### How does it work?

- Narrows the blood vessels in the nasal mucosa, reducing swelling and congestion
- Reduces bleeding during nosebleeds

# How is it used in bleeding disorders?

- Afrin is administered intranasally
- Used when pressure and ice, alone, cannot stop nosebleeds

Instill 2-3 sprays into the bleeding nostril and continue applying pressure to the nose

# **Possible Side Effects:**

- **❖** Nasal irritation
- Tingling or burning
- Dryness in the nose
- Sneezing
- **❖** Increased nasal congestion
- The provider should be contacted if these symptoms are severe or persist

# **Important Facts:**

- Do not use for more than three consecutive days
- Afrin can be purchased overthe-counter

For further questions regarding Afrin, please see <u>package insert</u> or contact the **Rhode Island Hemostasis & Thrombosis Center** at 401-444-8250 Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm. After hours/weekends/holidays, please call 401-444-4000 and ask for the pediatric or adult hematologist on-call to be paged