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 over-the-counter

For further questions regarding Afrin, please see package insert 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.