

NEWS RELEASE

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**THE POPULAR INSURANCE IN MEXICO MAKES
POSSIBLE THE TREATMENT OF HIGH-COST
DISEASES**

- *A severe disease like hemophilia has been controlled in Francisco Núñez García, a 14-year-old patient.*
- *There has been an investment of approximately seven million Mexican pesos in medicine, with resources of the Mexican Popular Insurance.*

The Popular Insurance, a social health protection system in Mexico that seeks to provide health service coverage through the voluntary, public insurance for people who are not affiliated to any social security institution, has made it possible for a 14-year-old kid suffering from severe hemophilia, to have access to a medical treatment for his condition, in spite of the high cost that this condition represents (approximately seven million Mexican pesos).

In an interview, the Minister of Health of the Mexican State of San Luis Potosí, Mr. Francisco Posada, explained that the 21st Century Medical Insurance covers every treatment that any minor requires before being 10 years old. Nevertheless, the health services of the state have made an effort to cover the cost of the treatment of this 14-year-old patient, who is currently in good health condition.

He detailed that the youngster was diagnosed with severe hemophilia at the Central Hospital named “*Dr. Ignacio Morones*” in the Mexican State of San Luis Potosí. Until a decade ago, there was no life expectancy for the people suffering from this condition in Mexico, since its treatment is very expensive.

Hemophilia is an incurable disease characterized by a genetic deficiency in the X chromosome. It is suffered mainly by men. The diseased people lack of something called “8 Factor”, which permits a correct blood-clotting; this means that the patients suffering from this condition are very likely to have asymptomatic haemorrhage in different parts of the body. Even coughing, walking or sneezing can cause haemorrhage.

In Francisco Núñez’s case, a 14-year-old, everything began when he received a blow in his right knee in a football match on February 13, 2013, and a hematoma of great proportions and pain appeared. This episode triggered his hemophilia problem.



After being diagnosed with severe hemophilia, Francisco began his treatment with “8 Factor” shots. Each shot costs approximately 6,000 Mexican pesos (around 600 USD).

The Minister of Health of the Mexican State of San Luis Potosí, Mr. Francisco Posada, explained that the kid’s medical condition improved, but after a while, the kid’s organism began rejecting the treatment, so his medication had to change to “7 Factor” shots. These shots cost 60,000 Mexican pesos per unit, which is a very high-cost investment, since the kid had required a many shots. The kid’s treatment has also included an anti-hemophilic factor, glycoprotein that favors blood clotting.

The Ministry of Health of the Mexican State of San Luis Potosí has invested more than 7 million Mexican pesos with resources from the Popular Insurance, and the process is not over yet. Francisco has improved, but “we are trying to change the kid’s treatment back to “8 Factor”, which will require an annual investment of 3 or 4 million Mexican pesos”, said the Minister of Health of the State of San Luis Potosí.

Before the implementation of the Popular Insurance, these patients passed away due to the lack of access to medical services and treatment.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- San Luis Potosí is a state that forms part of the Mexican Republic. One of the world’s leading producers of fluorite.
- The Social Health Protection System (Popular Insurance Scheme) in Mexico seeks to provide health service coverage, through voluntary, public insurance for people who are not affiliated to any social security institution. Members of families affiliated to the Social Health Protection System through Popular Insurance will have access to the medical, surgical, pharmaceutical and hospital services that fully satisfy their health needs. The Popular Insurance Scheme currently provides coverage for 275 medical operations, described in the Universal Health Service Catalogue.

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