



*Kim W-E.*

Common Factors® Advocate

---

*My life at a glance*

I am a busy, married mother of 5 from Pennsylvania. I've worked as a full-time ICU nurse since 1991 and also volunteer at the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation in their "Camp Hot to Clot" summer program. At the camp, I provide treatment and management education to children who have bleeding disorders and their families.

VWD runs in my family. I have Type 1 VWD, my children have Type 1 VWD, and my father was recently diagnosed as well.

I didn't learn I had VWD until I was 36. During a routine exam with my cardiologist, he noticed bruising on my arm. After informing him that I had bruised easily all of my life, he ordered lab tests. The tests came back positive for Type 1 VWD.

---

*As a speaker, preferred topics include*

I want to use my story to provide patients with a newfound sense of confidence and a better understanding of their disease. My childhood was routinely interrupted by frequent nosebleeds, severe menorrhagia, and regular visits to the ER. I missed gym classes, swimming, and a lot of childhood experiences. I thought 2-week-long menstrual periods were normal! I tell these stories to demonstrate the value and importance of today's VWD treatments and management options. Today's patients don't have to endure what I endured.

Other than that, my audiences' interests largely determine the topics I discuss. Hopefully, patients leave my talks motivated to live their lives more comfortably with treatment.

---

*My message to you*

*"Understand VWD and your treatment options, and work to become a strong and confident self-advocate."*

---

*-Kim*

*Common*  
**Factors®**

COAGULATION