

WHAT IS THE DHEC SICKLE CELL PROGRAM?

The DHEC Sickle Cell Program works to increase public awareness on SCD related topics through education and client assistance. In addition to education, the DHEC SCD program provides care coordination and payment assistance for medical services, supplies, equipment and medications for people with sickle cell disease. Care coordination is available to anyone referred to the program and this assists patients with obtaining needed services and supplies.

Who is Eligible?

- U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent residency
- South Carolina residency
- Household income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level
- Physician diagnosed sickle cell disease or other congenital hemoglobinopathies.

What client services are provided?

- Payment for outpatient medical services, supplies, equipment, and prescription medications related to treatment of sickle cell disease
- Care coordination as needed
- Nursing, nutrition, and/or social work consultation as needed (depending on regional resources).

SICKLE CELL COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

There are four community-based organizations across the state that serve patients and families with sickle cell disease and trait. These organizations offer genetic counseling, education, sickle cell testing, and nurse case management for families.

COBRA Human Services Agency Sickle Cell Program

3962 Rivers Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405

Phone: (843) 225-4866

Fax: (843) 225-4869

Toll Free: (800) 354-4704

James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation

1420 Gregg Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 765-9916

Fax: (803) 799-6471

Toll Free: (800) 506-1273

Orangeburg Area Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation

825 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Phone: (803) 534-1716

Fax: (803) 534-2422

Louvenia D. Barksdale Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation

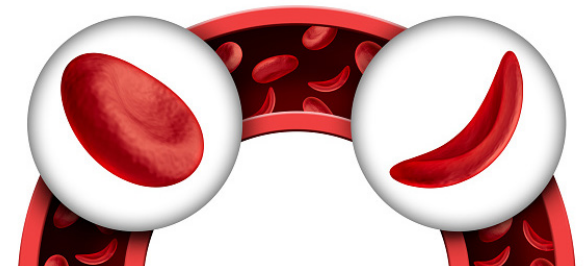
645 S. Church Street
Spartanburg, SC 29306

Phone: (864) 582-9420

Fax: (864) 582-9421



SICKLE CELL DISEASE

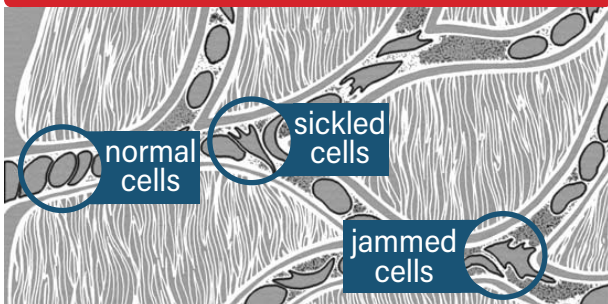


WHAT IS SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that is present from birth. Normal red blood cells are round and move easily through blood vessels. For someone who has SCD, the red blood cells become hard and sticky, and have a C-shape, like a farmer's sickle. These "sickled" cells become stuck in blood vessels and block the blood flow. Also, sickled cells die early which results in a constant shortage of red blood cells. This can cause pain, damage to body organs and anemia. SCD is inherited, which means it can run in families. It occurs when a person gets two sickle cell genes, one from each parent. A person cannot catch this disease from someone else.

Sickle cell trait is not a disease, but it can be passed on to your children. It occurs when a person gets one sickle cell gene from one parent and one normal red blood cell gene from the other parent. While persons with sickle cell trait usually live a normal life, sometimes problems may occur.

If you have sickle cell disease or trait, it is important to receive genetic counseling to know the chance of having a child with sickle cell disease or trait.



LIVING WELL WITH SCD

A person with SCD can live a long and high-quality life. The following tips can help someone with SCD stay healthy as possible.

- Find medical care and get regular checkups or exams with your doctor
- Follow treatments as prescribed by your doctor, such as taking medications
- Prevent infections by taking simple steps including washing your hands
- Practicing healthy habits like drinking 8 to 10 glasses of water per day and eating healthy food

Is There a Test for Sickle Cell Disease or Trait?

A simple blood test can show if you have sickle cell disease or trait. It is most often completed at birth during the routine Newborn Screening tests. Because of the risk and complications associated with SCD, early diagnosis and treatment are important. Currently, the only cure for SCD is bone marrow or stem cell transplant.

If you or someone you know is interested in being tested, you may contact your doctor, or a local community-based sickle cell organization.

What is Sickle Cell Trait?

When a person has sickle cell trait (SCT), they are a carrier of the sickle cell gene. This means a person with SCT, could pass the trait on to their children. People who inherit one sickle cell gene and one normal gene have sickle cell trait. However, someone who has SCT will not get SCD; sickle cell trait does not change into sickle cell disease.

Will All Children Of Parents Who Have Sickle Cell Trait Get sickle cell disease?

No. The following drawings help explain the different ways the children may be affected depending on which hemoglobin type each parent has.

