

Sickle Cell Disease

Tips for Healthy Living

Emergency Guide: When To See the Doctor

It is very important that every person or family with a young child with sickle cell disease have a plan for how to get help immediately, at any hour, if there's a problem. Be sure to find a place that will have access to your medical records or bring a copy.

Go to an emergency room or urgent-care facility right away for:

- Fever above 101° F
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain
- Abdominal (belly) swelling
- Severe headache
- Sudden weakness or loss of feeling and movement
- Seizure
- Painful erection of the penis that lasts more than 4 hours

Call a doctor right away for:

- Pain anywhere in the body that will not go away with treatment at home
- Any sudden problem with vision

For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell