



SICKLE CELL CLINIC

Types of Sickle Cell Disease

You should learn what type of sickle cell disease your child has:

1. Hemoglobin SS disease
2. Hemoglobin S Beta zero thalassemia
3. Hemoglobin SC disease
4. Hemoglobin S Beta plus thalassemia

When will I know what type of sickle cell my child has?

- The doctors can look at your child's newborn screen. This is bloodwork taken from a heel stick at birth.
- The doctors will confirm what type of sickle cell your child has by his/her first birthday.

Why is it important to know what type of sickle cell disease?

Every child is different, but some patients with Hemoglobin SS or SB0 thalassemia have more severe disease than patients with Hemoglobin SC or SB+ thalassemia.

What is sickle cell trait?

- Sickle cell trait is when you have one sickle cell gene and one non-sickle cell gene.
- People with sickle cell trait do not experience symptoms of sickle cell.

How did my child get sickle cell disease?

Sickle cell is an inherited disease. The mom gives one gene and the dad gives one gene.

How did my child get sickle cell disease if I don't have it?

- A mom and dad both with sickle cell trait may each give the sickle cell gene to their child.
- Also, one mom or dad could have beta thalassemia and may give that gene to his/her child.
- Many parents with sickle cell trait or beta thalassemia trait do not know they have it.

What doctors will help my child stay healthy?

- It is important that you keep up with your regular visits to the Pediatrician.
- You will also be closely followed by social workers, education specialists, nurses, nurse practitioners, and doctors in a sickle cell clinic.
- Other specialized nurse practitioners or doctors may be needed to help your child.