



www.mi.gov/newbornscreening

Michigan Resources & Support

**Children's Hospital of Michigan
Sickle Cell Clinic**
Phone: 313-745-5613

**Children's Special Health
Care Services**
Family Phone Line
Toll-free: 1-800-359-3722

Early On® Michigan
Toll-free: 1-800-EARLY ON
www.1800earlyon.org

Michigan Genetics Connection
www.migeneticsconnection.org

Michigan Newborn Screening
Follow-up Coordinator
Toll-free: 1-866-673-9939
E-mail: MDCH-newbornscreening@michigan.gov

Michigan NBS Parent Liaison
Toll-free: 1-866-673-9939
E-mail: NBS-parent@michigan.gov

**Sickle Cell Disease Association,
Michigan Chapter**
Toll-free: 1-800-842-0973
www.sicklecelldisease.org

National Resources & Support

About Sickle Cell Disease
www.sicklecellinfo.net

**American Sickle Cell Anemia
Association**
Phone: 216-229-8600
www.ascaa.org/

Family Village
www.familyvillage.wisc.edu

GeneReviews
www.genetests.org

Genetic Alliance
www.geneticalliance.org

What is Sickle Cell Anemia?

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited disorder that affects a baby's red blood cells. Babies with sickle cell anemia have fewer red blood cells (anemia) and abnormally shaped red blood cells. Sickle cell anemia can occur in any ethnic group but is more common in babies of African American heritage. It occurs in about 1 in 600 African American babies. Early detection and treatment will help many babies with sickle cell anemia avoid sudden death from infections.

How may Sickle Cell Anemia affect my child?

Abnormal Red Blood Cells

Anemia: Babies and children with sickle cell anemia have chronic (constant) anemia. Signs of anemia include tiredness, paleness and shortness of breath.

Abnormally Shaped Red Blood Cells: Babies with sickle cell anemia have red blood cells shaped like a "sickle", or crescent instead of being round. These cells may damage the spleen. This prevents the body from fighting infection as well as it should.

Pain

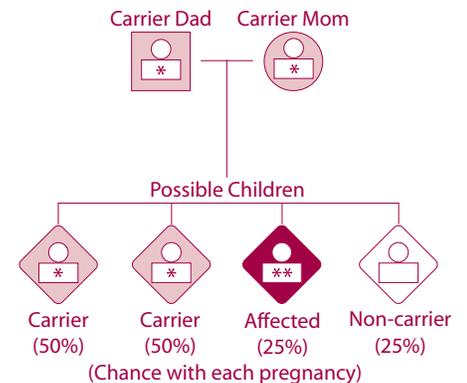
Painful swelling of hands and feet is one of the first signs of sickle cell anemia. Episodes of joint or organ pain may continue throughout a person's lifetime.

Delayed Growth/Puberty

Children with sickle cell anemia often have delays in growth and puberty due to their anemia.

How does Sickle Cell Anemia occur?

Sickle Cell Anemia is a genetic disorder. Parents of an affected child carry a genetic trait that can cause sickle cell anemia. Both parents pass the trait to a child with sickle cell anemia. There is a 1 in 4 chance in each pregnancy that a child will have sickle cell anemia when both parents carry the trait for the disorder.



How is Sickle Cell Anemia treated?

It is essential that children up to 5 years of age receive daily doses of penicillin to help prevent infection that could cause early death. Fever, which could mean a life threatening infection, should be treated as a medical emergency. The child's parent or guardian should know what to do when fever occurs and have a written emergency care plan. Regular care by a sickle cell clinic and/or pediatrician is recommended.

**For more information contact the Newborn Screening Program
toll-free at 1-866-673-9939 or e-mail NBS-Parent@michigan.gov**

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