



Sickle Cell Disease

HUSKY Health Checklist

Things Parents Should Know

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a lifelong genetic condition that affects a protein in red blood cells. This protein is called hemoglobin. Hemoglobin delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body. SCD can cause a lack of oxygen to vital organs, which

can lead to pain. There is no cure, but with the right healthcare and education, people with SCD can live productive lives. HUSKY is here to help members stay as healthy as possible.

AS A CAREGIVER, YOU MUST MONITOR CHILDREN WITH SCD CLOSELY. HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN GOING TO THE HOSPITAL:

- Has your child been eating and drinking regularly?
- Is your child up to date on vaccines?
- What type of SCD does your child have?
- Has he/she ever had acute chest syndrome or a blood transfusion?
- How many crises does your child have yearly?
- How many admissions does your child have yearly?
- Any recent trips to the hospital and why?
- Has your child been around anyone who is sick?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO BRING WITH YOU TO THE HOSPITAL:

- Child's normal hemoglobin level
- Recent bowel movement
- Areas of discomfort
- Allergies
- Medications given - route and time
- Name of Hematology/Oncology doctor and Primary Care Provider
- Child's temperature
- Signs/symptoms of respiratory distress

Things to remember

Spleen: It is important to check your child's spleen regularly.

Hydrate: Provide non-carbonated, non-caffeinated, low sugar drinks often.

Warmth: Children should be kept warm and wear extra layers if it is cold.

Exercise: Exercise helps with growth and strengthening.

Medicine: When ordered by your doctor, taking antibiotics daily helps with infection prevention, especially for your children.

Record: Have a personal copy of your child's medical record. Update it often.



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