

SICKLE CELL DISEASE

In sickle cell disease, the red blood cells become distorted and look C-shaped, like a sickle. Sickle cells die early, which leads to anemia. Also, these sickle-shaped blood cells tend to get stuck in narrow blood vessels and clog blood flow. This can cause severe pain and organ damage, especially to the spleen. People with sickle cell disease are susceptible to certain bacterial infections because of damage done to the spleen.

Allow a student with sickle cell to drink water throughout the day. Staying well hydrated by drinking plenty of water can help prevent pain episodes and other health problems.

Refer to the student's health plan or Emergency plan.

Does the student have any of the following signs and symptoms:

- Blurred vision?
- Chest pain?
- Difficulty breathing?
- Fast rate of breathing?
- Harsh noisy breathing?
- Inability to speak?
- Oral/tympanic temperature greater than 101° or axillary greater than 100°?
- Severe headache?
- Sudden or constant dizziness?
- Sustained, unwanted erection?
- Upper left abdominal pain?
- Weakness on either side of body?

YES

NO

CALL EMS/911

Does the student have the following signs and symptoms:

- Bone/joint/hip pain?
- Noticeable change in the color of skin, lips, fingernails?
- Difficulty with memory?
- Vomiting?
- Swelling in hands, feet or joints?

YES

NO

Contact responsible school authority & parent/guardian.
URGE MEDICAL CARE.

- Review student's health plan and/or emergency plan for all other concerns.
- Follow instructions in health plan.

Document care provided.