



Piedmont Health Services and Sickle Cell Agency

Mecklenburg County

www.piedmonthhealthservices.org

***Serving the community by providing
Sickle Cell Disease Education, Testing and Care Coordination.***



Our Services Include:

- * Medical Assistance (Referral)
- * Financial Assistance (Referral)
- Crisis Assistance Ministries
- * Counseling Services
- * Assistance with Food-Stamps & Medicaid application
- * Attend 504P & IEP meetings
- * Education Seminars
- * Training Seminars
- * Scholarship/Grant Resources (Referral)
- * Transportation Assistance (Referral)
- * Assistance with Tax Filing (Benefit Bank)
- * Child Development Assessment (Referral)
- * Apply for Voter's Registration
- * Community Outreach
- * Support Groups
- * Child Care (Referral)
- **And MUCH MORE

Also serving Guilford, Forsyth,
Alamance, Randolph, Rockingham
and Caswell counties

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What You Should Know About Sickle Cell Disease and/or Thalassemia

What Is Sickle Cell Disease?

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders.

- Healthy red blood cells are round and they move through small blood vessels carrying oxygen to all parts of the body.
- In SCD, the red blood cells become hard and sticky. They look like a C-shaped farm tool called a “sickle.”
- Sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells.
- Sickle cells can get stuck in small blood vessels which block the flow of blood and oxygen to organs in the body. These blockages cause repeated episodes of severe pain, organ damage, serious infections, and/or a stroke.

What is Thalassemia?

Thalassemia is a group of blood disorders. It happens when the body does not make enough normal hemoglobin.

***Beta Thalassemia Major (or Cooley’s Anemia)* is the most serious form of beta thalassemia. Children can get it if both parents have the Cooley’s anemia trait (B-) --- there is a 25% chance of this. This disease may cause: severe anemia, slowed growth, tiredness, and death. Treatment may include blood transfusions and medications. If untreated, it can lead to heart failure, liver and spleen problems, and brittle bones.

***Alpha Thalassemia Major* is a serious disease. It causes severe anemia to a baby in the womb. The baby may be stillborn or not live more than a few hours after birth. Children can get it if both parents have the alpha thalassemia trait (α -) and the abnormal alpha genes are on the same chromosomes--- there is a 25% chance of this.

Thalassemia is most common in those of Asian, African or Mediterranean backgrounds.

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NC Sickle Cell Syndrome Program