



SICKLE CELL DISEASE EMERGENCY GUIDE

FEVER & INFECTION

- Under 3 months old: 100.4°F or higher → Go to the ER
- 3 months or older: 101.5°F or higher → Go to the ER

Do not give ibuprofen (Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) for fever

PAIN

- Massage, heating pads, relaxation, distraction, hydration
- Pain medications: alternate every 3 hours
- Uncontrollable pain or no improvement in 1 to 2 days → Go to the ER

SPLEEN

- Big spleen
- Unusual sleepiness, weakness
- Skin looks pale
- Pain in left side of abdomen
- Fast heartbeat

Go to the ER

ACUTE CHEST SYNDROME

- Chest pain
- Cough
- Fever of 101.5° F or higher
- Difficulty or fast breathing

Go to the ER

STROKE

- Weakness/numbness/unable to move part of the body
- Seizures
- Sudden blurry vision
- Severe vomiting
- Severe headaches not relieved with medication
- Strange or abnormal behavior

Go to the ER

PRIAPISM (affects males only)

- Use the restroom
- Take a warm shower or bath
- Drink plenty of water
- Take pain medicine
- Erection does not go away in 3 hours → Go to the ER



For more information, visit childrens.com/sicklecell or scan QR code

Sickle Cell Clinic (Mon - Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

P: 214-456-6102

Hematology on-call after-hours: 214-456-7000, ask operator to page hematology on call