



## When to get help - Sickle cell disease, child

This handout tells you about signs and symptoms to watch for and when to get help. Tell the doctor about any emergency room visits or changes to your child's medicine.



### When to call for emergency help

- You think your child is having a heart attack or stroke.
- Your child suddenly has trouble breathing or chest pain.
- You are unable to wake your child up.
- Your child is confused or not thinking clearly.
- Your child is having trouble speaking, slurred speech, or speech that does not make sense.
- Your child has sudden vision changes.
- Your child has a seizure (body shaking, staring, eyes rolling).
- Your child is in sickle cell crisis.
  - Bone or joint pain comes on quickly.
  - Chest pain that comes on quickly. This may happen with coughing up blood, or the cough may be dry.
  - Very bad stomach pain or stomach swelling. This may happen with feeling sick to the stomach (nausea), throwing up (vomiting), and loose stools (diarrhea).
- Your child has an erection that lasts for 4 hours.
- Your child has a fever of 101 or higher.



### When to call your child's hematologist

- Your child has new or more pain that does not go away.

- Your child has bone or joint pain with swelling and tenderness.
- The pain medicine does not help your child's pain.
- Your child has pain, loss of feeling, cold feeling, or weakness in the legs.
- Your child has a fever of 100.4 that does not go away.
- Your child's skin or eyes look yellow (jaundice).
- Your child has a foot or leg sore that does not heal right away.
- Your child is old enough to get pregnant, is pregnant, or is trying to get pregnant.
- Call the regular doctor if your child has other medical problems.



### **Important phone numbers**

- Keep a list of important healthcare phone numbers near your phone or in your contact list in your phone.
  - See the **Important healthcare phone numbers** handout.

This information is general in nature and may not apply to you or your condition. Talk to your doctor or nurse about how to best use this information and how to take care of your medical condition. Be sure to ask your doctor or nurse any questions you might have. This information sheet is not intended to provide or replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

### **Patient or Caregiver:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Nurse:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

