

Fever in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease



Thank you for bringing your child with sickle cell disease (SCD) and fever to the Emergency Department (ED). It is important for them to be evaluated (checked out). Children with SCD are more likely to get a serious blood infection, compared to other children. There are things you can do to lower the risk of a serious blood infection such as:

- keeping up to date with your child's vaccines
- taking antibiotics. This will help lower the chance of an infection (for children under five years of age)

The medical staff started an antibiotic that treats this possible serious infection. They feel it is safe for your child to go home. Your child also had a lab test done that checks for bacteria in the blood. It can take 24-48 hours for the results to come back from this test. If bacteria is found in the blood, our team of doctors will contact you and plan further treatment.

What can I expect after my child gets discharged (sent home) from the ED?

Your child may continue to have fevers at home. If your child's fevers are getting higher or if your child is getting more sick even without a fever, please call hematology and plan to bring your child back to the hospital. It is always best to call the clinic or the hematologist on-call before coming in. Call your medical team if your child has any of the problems listed or you have urgent concerns.

- Persistent fever or chills beyond 24 hours from your ED visit
- Difficulty breathing, breathing fast, feeling short of breath, new/worsening cough
- Excessive diarrhea, vomiting, or decreased urination (pee) or has less wet diapers than usual
- Unable to take liquids by mouth
- Severe abdominal pain
- Severe headache
- Unable to wake up your child
- Seizures
- Change in balance or walking
- Face muscle drooping/sagging
- Loss of sensation or strength in one or more extremities (arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet, toes)
- Double vision or loss of vision
- Yellow eyes or skin (more than baseline)
- Dark (tea-colored) urine
- Pale skin, headache, dizziness, fatigue
- Severe sickle cell pain (pain management strategies at home are not working)
- *If your child has a central line:* Redness, swelling, drainage (liquid coming out) at the central line site, problems flushing the central line, central line pulled out, leaking, torn, wet dressing, chills or fever when flushing the central line.

Hours	Phone Number	Who to Ask For
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm	(323) 361-4624	Fast Track
Nights/Weekends/Holidays	(323) 660-2450 *Dial "0"	Hematology Fellow on-call

Hematology

4650 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027 | CHLA.org

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Who do I call for non-urgent issues?

	Who to Contact	How to Contact	When to Contact	Reasons to Contact
Hematology Clinic	Clinic Staff	(323)-361-4624	Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm clinic appointment • Reschedule clinic appointment
Medication Refills	STEP 1: call your child's pharmacy STEP 2: Call hematology clinic during office hours for problems with filling a prescription	STEP 1: Call the number listed on your child's prescription STEP 2: (323) 361-4624	<i>Hours vary based on pharmacy</i> Contact Hematology clinic during office hours Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refill prescriptions • Questions about medication
Care Manager	Heather von Biela, RN, BSN	(323) 361-8058	Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *Only leave non-urgent messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication issues • Coordinate care needs • Answer questions • Helps to solve problems
Social workers	Michelle Lahat, LCSW	(323) 361-5469	Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional support • School issues • Child development resources • Resources • Sibling/family issues
Nurse practitioners	Susan Carson, NP Debbie Harris, NP Annie Nord, NP Trish Peterson, NP	(323) 361-5507	Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Only leave non-urgent messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer medical questions • Help to solve health problems
Home care providers		Depends on individual home care company	<i>Hours vary</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems/questions about giving any medications at home • Questions/problems with home care
Medical Records (HIM)		(323) 361-2387	Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting or sending CHLA medical records