

Sickle Cell Trait

Information for Parents

What is hemoglobin?

- Hemoglobin is a part of our blood that carries oxygen to the body.
- Hemoglobin can be influenced by genes that are passed from parents to children.

What is Sickle Cell Trait?

- Your baby has one copy of the gene that causes sickle cell disease. In order to have the disease, your baby would need 2 copies of the gene.

How do we know that my child has Sickle Cell Trait?

- Pennsylvania has a newborn screening program that screens for many different medical conditions.
- A very small amount of your baby's blood was collected at the hospital in the first few days of life.
- Your baby's newborn screen showed us that your baby has sickle cell trait.
- Sickle cell trait can NEVER become sickle cell disease, but it may be passed onto your children.

What do we do now?

- Your baby should have a normal, healthy life.
- Rarely, people with sickle cell trait can become sick under severe conditions like extreme dehydration, high altitude, scuba diving or with very intense physical activity.
- Please tell healthcare providers in hospitals, emergency rooms, or clinics that your child has sickle cell trait. This will help them take better care of your child.