

James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation

Mission

To optimize the social, psychological, and physiological well-being of individuals with sickle cell disease and to decrease the incidence of sickle cell disease through genetic screening, counseling, and education

Vision

To be the face and voice of sickle cell in the communities we serve through effective advocacy and education

Core Values

As the face and voice of sickle cell in the community, we embrace certain core values and pledge to live them out in the ways we interact with others on a daily basis:

- ◆ To treat other with the dignity, respect, and compassion we would want for ourselves
- ◆ To be honest, fair, and reliable in our relationships, knowing that our actions are the truest measure of our words
- ◆ To strive for excellence in achieving our mission, continually seeking to learn and be open to new ways of thinking and serving
- ◆ To demonstrate our commitment to improving the lives of our clients by honoring their rights to privacy and confidentiality and by making our services accessible in every community we serve

GENETIC SCREENING AND COUNSELING

Genetic screening involves a special blood test to identify persons possessing certain genotypes that: 1) are already associated with some form of sickle cell disease or a predisposition to the disease; and 2) may lead to the passing of the disease to their children.

Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells which carries oxygen from the lungs to other parts of the body. People with “regular” hemoglobin have received two regular hemoglobin genes - one from each parent. However, people who inherit:

- ◆ 1 gene for regular hemoglobin and 1 gene for sickle hemoglobin have sickle cell trait
- ◆ 2 genes for sickle hemoglobin have sickle cell disease

When one parent has sickle cell trait and the other has regular hemoglobin, there is a 50% chance that **each** of their children will have regular hemoglobin and a 50% chance that **each** child will have sickle cell trait.

When one parent has sickle cell disease and the other has regular hemoglobin, **all** of their children will have sickle cell trait.

When both parents have sickle cell trait, there is a 25% chance that **each** child will have regular hemoglobin, a 50% chance that **each** child will have sickle cell trait, and a 25% chance that **each** child will have sickle cell disease.

When one parent has sickle cell trait and the other has sickle cell disease, there is a 50% chance that **each** child will have the trait and a 50% chance that **each** child will have the disease.

When both parents have sickle cell disease, **all** of their children will also have sickle cell disease.

The only way to know for sure what genotype you are carrying is to be tested. The blood test and follow-up genetic counseling are provided free of charge by the Foundation, and the results are confidential.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Nursing and social work case management involve the coordination of services to ensure that persons with sickle cell disease and their families have timely access to services. The specific array of services provided by Foundation case managers include intake and assessment, service planning, information and referral, and monitoring and follow-up. These services are provided by licensed nursing and social work personnel.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Foundation provides educational information through health fairs, workshops, and seminars to the community at large, as well as to clients and professional groups. The intent is to enhance the understanding of the group of related sickle cell diseases so that sound prevention and intervention strategies and programs can be developed and implemented on an individual, family, and community-wide basis. Call the Foundation to schedule an educational program for your church, business, community, or professional organization.

The Foundation’s mission is to optimize the social, psychological, and physical well-being of persons suffering from sickle cell disease and to provide support services to their families.

James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation

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The James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation is a non-profit United Way agency serving sickle cell clients and their families in 15 Midland and Upper South Carolina counties. Services provided include:

- ♦ Genetic screening and counseling
- ♦ Nursing and social work case management
- ♦ Home and hospital visitation
- ♦ Client, professional, and community education
- ♦ Emergency client assistance

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Are you a sickle cell trait carrier?
Is your partner?

CALL THE FOUNDATION AND SET UP
AN APPOINTMENT FOR GENETIC
SCREENING TODAY

AGENCY OFFICES

Columbia Office

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JAMES R. CLARK MEMORIAL SICKLE CELL FOUNDATION

Providing sickle cell education
and services to the people of
South Carolina

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