

Celebrate National Sickle Cell Month This September

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder that impacts more than 100,000 individuals in the United States alone. This inherited blood disorder affects approximately 24,000 infants born each year, and there is no cure.

Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder in which red blood cells may become sickle-shaped and hard. The blockage of blood flow caused by these sickled cells lead to a variety of complications, including chronic pain, anemia, blood clots, fatigue and frequent infections, as well as delayed growth, vision problems, organ damage or stroke. Women diagnosed with SCD may also experience difficulty with pregnancy.

While there is no cure, Sickle Cell Disease can be managed in several ways, including blood transfusions, pain management, and preventative antibiotics and/or prescription treatments, as well as maintaining a healthy diet, exercising and drinking water. In some cases, individuals with SCD may also be candidates for bone marrow (stem cell) transplant.

National Sickle Cell Awareness focuses attention on the need for research and treatment of sickle cell disease. Individuals and organizations can recognize the participate in a variety of ways, including blood donation, hosting blood drives or other awareness events, distributing educational information to dispel the myths about sickle cell disease, and/or lighting public spaces, buildings and landmarks red.

To donate blood in recognition of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month, learn about the 2020 Sickle Cell Disease Therapeutics Conference or the Sickle Cell Awareness Month Twitter Party, or for more information on Sickle Cell Disease, visit GIVEaPINT.org/sickle-cell.