

### Why is it important to see a Hematologist if I have Sickle Cell Disease?

- A hematologist is a doctor who has special training in blood diseases like sickle cell disease. Your hematologist will work with your primary care provider to make sure you get the best care possible.
- When you go to a hematology appointment, your doctor will talk to you about your disease. He or she will make sure you understand how to take care of yourself or your child. You will learn about health problems that people with sickle cell might have, and how to stay healthy. You can also use this information when you have to go to the emergency room to make sure you get the care you need.
- It's important to see your hematologist for scheduled visits. Your visits are a chance for you to ask your hematologist questions about your care. This is also a time for your hematologist to talk to you about the treatments you need.
- People with sickle cell disease need special medical tests. Your hematologist will tell you which tests you need. Some tests include Transcranial Doppler (TCD) scans, eye exams, or lung tests.

Your hematologist may give you hydroxyurea for your sickle cell disease. Hydroxyurea is a medicine that can reduce the amount of problems that people with sickle cell have. It's important that you take hydroxyurea exactly the way your doctor tells you to. Otherwise, it may not work.

- Some people with sickle cell disease need blood transfusions. These transfusions can help keep your red blood cells from sickling. Your hematologist will schedule your transfusions for you when you need them.