The mission of the Sickle SAFE Program is to provide early screening and promote assessment, follow-up, and educational services for infants with sickle cell disease and their families.

The program is committed to improving the quality of life and productivity of individuals with sickle cell disease through a comprehensive, patient/family focused health care delivery system that integrates local community resources.

The Sickle SAFE Program is funded by the Indiana State Department of Health Newborn Screening Program.
What is sickle cell disease?

The Sickle SAFE Program was developed by the Indiana Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center, Inc. This program enhances the follow-up care for infants born in Indiana with sickle cell disease through:

**Screening**

Since 1985, all infants born in Indiana are tested for abnormal hemoglobins. All infants testing positive for sickle cell disease or another hemoglobin disease are referred to the Sickle SAFE Program by the Indiana State Department of Health Newborn Screening Program.

**Assessment**

Assessments are conducted to determine each family’s level of knowledge about sickle cell disease, and to help identify additional social and environmental needs. Referrals are then coordinated as needed.

**Follow-up**

Follow-up services are provided for a minimum of three years to ensure families have access to the highest level of care available throughout Indiana.

**Education**

The program strives to develop a positive relationship with all referred families. Education is tailored to each individual family and provided at initial and subsequent encounters.

Who is at risk?

In the United States, Sickle Cell disease is most common in African Americans and persons of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, and American Indian ancestry. It also affects other groups including Latinos and Asians. A growing number of Caucasian Americans in the United States are being identified with sickle cell trait (carrier) and other abnormal hemoglobins.

There are an estimated 100,000 people living with a type of sickle cell disease and over 2 million people with sickle cell trait in the US alone.

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