

September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month

About Hemoglobin and Sickle Cells

Hemoglobin is the main substance of red blood cells. It helps these cells carry oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body. Normal red blood cells live 120 days before new ones replace them.

Sickle Cell hemoglobin is an inherited blood condition. People with sickle cell conditions produce a different form of Hemoglobin A called Hemoglobin S (S stands for sickle). Red blood cells, containing mostly Hemoglobin S, have a shortened lifespan and a distorted shape. When sickle-shaped cells block small blood vessels, less blood reaches that part of the body and tissue does not receive normal blood flow, eventually becoming damaged.

With the generosity of blood donors, sickle cell patients are able to receive the red blood cell products necessary to restore these damaged cells and lead a more comfortable life.

Fascinating Facts

Sickle Cell Anemia

- Sickle Cell is inherited from both parents who carry the trait or have the disease
- 91,000 Americans of different ethnic backgrounds have sickle cell disease
- 1 in 500 African Americans have sickle cell disease
- 1 in 12 African Americans carries the sickle cell trait

Did You Know?

LifeSource provides donors with sickle cell testing upon request.

How Can I Help?

Individuals with sickle cell trait are generally healthy and may serve as blood donors. By supporting the cause, through the gift of your donation, you can help save the lives of those in need.



**SICKLE CELL
AWARENESS MONTH**

DONATE BLOOD. SAVE LIVES.