

UAB SICKLE CELL LIFESPAN TRANSITION POLICY FOR PARENT

1. You are receiving this transition policy because your child is **greater than or equal to 12 years old** and has a form of Sickle Cell Disease. Your child receives specialty care (in part or whole) from a UAB faculty, board-certified hematologist who practice at Children's of Alabama or one of our regional clinics.
2. Starting at age 12, we will begin working with you as your child becomes an adult with sickle cell disease. But until then, we will continue to work closely with you and your child. While this process may be upsetting at first, within it is a positive message. We want and expect your child to be excited about living life successfully as an adult. We want your child to be able to choose to pursue an education, have a family, have a career, and have an independent and fulfilling life. In order to accomplish this goal of independence, we must acknowledge the fact that both you and your child will be prepared for transition.
3. Within the first year after your child reaches his/her 18th birthday, your child will be transitioned to an adult doctor and to an adult medical care facility. This will allow your child to receive age appropriate care. At the age of 19, your child will become an adult in the healthcare setting with the right to consent and make their own medical decisions.
4. You and your family are not alone. There are opportunities to **participate in various activities and support groups from Children's of Alabama and the Sickle Cell Foundation**. A Transition Program is available at Children's Harbor Family Center, which is located at Children's of Alabama. The program covers important things your child should know about their medical diagnosis, insurance, education, community and daily living, communication and socialization, employment and care planning. We encourage your child to **attend and complete the free transition classes by the time you are 18**.
5. The rules of medical care coverage for all third party payers (including Medicaid) change by the time a child becomes a young adult. So that your child is not left without medical coverage and care, we will help you **establish a relationship with an adult doctor**. Parents should begin to think about where they may go for adult primary care and to select an adult hematologist. Again, we look forward to continuing to work with you to prepare you and your child for this important phase of medical life. We also look forward to helping your child become the healthiest and most successful adult possible. So, when the time comes for your child to transition into adult health care, we will have the assurance of knowing that our working together as a team made all of us well prepared for this change. If you need assistance with transportation to your appointment, please feel free to contact your local sickle cell foundation.