

UAB Pediatric Hematology

Children's Health System
1600 7th Avenue South
Suite 512 ACC
Birmingham, AL 35233

(205) 939-9285

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30pm

After office hours, please call (205)939-9100 and ask for the Hematologist on call.



Attending Physicians

Roger Berkow, MD
Gregory Friedman, MD
Lee Hilliard, MD
Thomas Howard, MD
Jeffrey Lebensburger, DO
Joseph Pressey, MD
Sue Spiller, MD
Raymond Watts, MD
Kim Whelan, MD

Nurses

Misty Bagwell, CRNP
Heather Carlton, CRNP
Heather Collins, CRNP
Jasmine Hoggle, CRNP
Mary Jones, RN
Jennifer McDuffie, CRNP
Kristen Osborn, CRNP
Britney Snipes, CRNP
Carol White, CRNP



How to Measure a Temperature for Patients with Sickle Cell Disease

► UAB Pediatric Hematology

Tel: (205)939-9285

► Taking Temperatures

Your child has a sickle cell disorder.

It is very important to check him or her

for fever when they are sick. This brochure is designed to be a quick reference for you at home.



Remember that children with sickle cell disease who have a temperature 101 degrees or greater, **MUST** be seen by a physician, no matter what time of the night or day.

You may use a glass thermometer or a digital thermometer. They can be purchased at your local drug store. Digital thermometers are the easiest to read.

If you have problems or questions about fever or taking temperatures, please call your child's pediatrician immediately. You may also contact us at the numbers located on the back of this form.

Where to Take the Temperature

Temperatures taken rectally are the most accurate. Temperatures taken by mouth are also accurate if they are measured properly. Temperatures taken under the child's are the least accurate, but they are better than not taking the temperature at all.



How to Take Rectal Temperatures

Have the child lie stomach down on your lap or another soft surface. Put some Vaseline jelly on the metal end of the thermometer. Insert the thermometer gently into the rectum about one inch. Never force it. Hold your child still. Leave the thermometer in place for 2 full minutes, or until your digital thermometer beeps.

How to Take Oral Temperatures

An oral temperature is one that is taken by mouth. Be sure your child has not had anything hot or cold to eat or drink for the last 30 minutes. Place the metal end of the thermometer under the child's tongue. Slide it toward the back of the mouth gently, taking care not to gag your child. Have the child hold the thermometer in place with his or her lips and tongue (not teeth) for 3 full minutes, or until your digital thermometer beeps. The child should be told to breathe through his or her nose while the thermometer is in place.

How to Take Axillary Temperatures

An axillary temperature is one that is taken in a child's armpit. Place the tip of the thermometer in the child's dry armpit. Close the armpit and form a seal around the thermometer by holding the elbow against the child's side. This should be done for 4-5 minutes, or until your digital thermometer beeps.

