

## Blood in the Urine

Your child might also have blood in his or her urine. If this happens, the urine will look bright red or brownish in color. If the blood in the urine is severe, they might also have back pain and/or small "clumps" of blood in their urine.

Most of the time, the blood goes away after a few hours. But if it is serious it could go on for days. Always call your doctor right away if you notice any blood in your child's urine. You should also have them drink plenty of fluids and rest.

Office hours: Monday–Friday

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

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

## UAB DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY and ONCOLOGY

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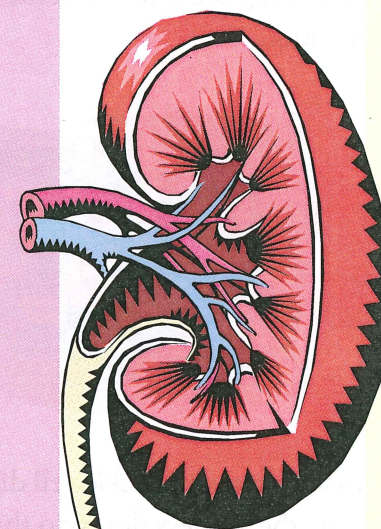
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## Problems with Kidneys and Urine in Sickle Cell Disease



UAB Division of  
Pediatric Hematology  
and Oncology

## Kidney Function in Sickle Cell Disease

The function of the kidneys is to help the body hold fluid and get rid of waste products. Normally, when the body begins to get dehydrated, which means to lose water or moisture, the kidneys stop making urine. This helps the body keep the fluids it needs to function.

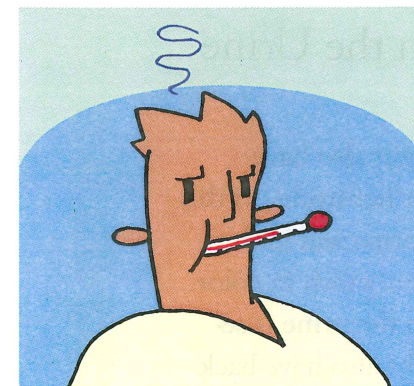


In children with sickle cell disease, the kidneys don't do this very well. The "sickled" cells get trapped in the kidneys and cause small amounts of damage. Over time, this makes the kidneys not be able to hold onto fluids. The kidneys continue to make a lot of urine even if the child is dehydrated.

If your child becomes dehydrated, he or she may be more tired than usual; they may go to the bathroom less often; they might have a dry, sticky mouth; and their eyes might look sunken. If the child is a baby, the soft spot on their head might look sunken, as well.

In order to protect your child from dehydration, he or she should drink more fluids than other children. This is especially important during activity or when they are sick. You may also notice that they go to the bathroom more often than other children do. Sometimes this causes problems with teachers at school. If this happens, please let us know so we can send a letter to your child's school that explains this problem.

It is also more common for children with sickle cell disease to be "bed wetters". Since the kidneys tend to create urine all the time, sometimes it is harder for kids with sickle cell disease to wake up and go to the bathroom. Please be patient with your child. They will eventually stop wetting the bed.



## Infections in the Kidneys and Bladder

Sometimes children with sickle cell disease can get an infection in their kidneys or their bladder. If this occurs, you might see the following signs:

- An increase in number of times they go to the bathroom
- Bedwetting after your child stops wetting the bed
- Foul smelling or cloudy urine
- Fever
- Burning or pain when urinating
- Tummy or back pain