A Sickle Stroke Screen is a transcranial Doppler ultrasound (TCD).

It is used to measure the speed of blood flowing through blood vessels in the brain.

It helps us to see if a child with sickle cell anemia (HbSS, HbSβ0) may be at risk for stroke.

The Sickle Stroke Screen measures the speed of blood flow in the blood vessels of the brain. It can tell us how fast or slow the blood is moving.

If the Sickle Stroke Screen shows any high or low speeds, your child may need a change in treatment to help prevent a stroke.

Your provider will use the results to help decide the best plan of action for you and your child.

Let us know what you think of this brochure!
What are the possible results of the Sickle Stroke Screen (TCD) and what happens next?

Normal:
- Repeat the Sickle Stroke Screen in a year

Conditional:
- Repeat the Sickle Stroke Screen more frequently

Abnormal:
One or more of the following may happen:
- Repeat the test within 1-2 weeks
- Start blood transfusion therapy
- Get an MRI of the brain

Your provider will talk with you about the best options for you or your child.

Why is this test important?
- People with certain types of sickle cell disease (HbSS, HbSβ0) are at a much higher risk of stroke.
- A stroke is when the blood supply to the brain is blocked or very decreased. The Sickle Stroke Screen helps to see if you/your child could be a risk of stroke.

How can I help my child?
- Make sure your child receives a Sickle Stroke Screen as recommended
- Attend all of your child’s appointments
- Ask questions about the Sickle Stroke Screen results
- Ask about the signs of stroke

Let us know what you think!

Sickle Stroke Screen FAQs:
Q: How often should I or my child be tested?
A: At least every year from age 2-16.
Q: Will the test hurt?
A: No. It is painless. The technician will put a special gel on different spots on the person’s head. They will then move a small wand to measure the speed of blood flow through the vessels.
Q: How long will the test last?
A: Each test usually lasts about 45-60 minutes.
Q: Do I need to do anything to prepare for the test?
A: No special preparation is needed for the Sickle Stroke Screen.
Q: How do I know if my loved one is having a stroke?
A: If your child/you has sudden neurologic change, difficulty walking or problems with strength or talking, call 911 or your physician to be evaluated.