You should learn what type of sickle cell disease your child has:

1) Hemoglobin SS disease
2) Hemoglobin S Beta zero thalassemia
3) Hemoglobin SC disease
4) Hemoglobin S Beta plus thalassemia

When will I know what type of sickle cell my child has?

- The doctors can look at your child's newborn screen. This is bloodwork taken from a heel stick at birth.
- The doctors will confirm what type of sickle cell your child has by his/her first birthday

Why is it important to know what type of sickle cell disease?

- Every child is different, but some patients with Hemoglobin SS or SB0 thalassemia have more severe disease than patients with Hemoglobin SC or SB+ thalassemia.

What is sickle cell trait?

- Sickle cell trait is when you have one sickle cell gene and one non-sickle cell gene.
- People with sickle cell trait do not experience symptoms of sickle cell.

How did my child get sickle cell disease?

- Sickle cell is an inherited disease. The mom gives one gene and the dad gives one gene.

How did my child get sickle cell disease if I don’t have it?

- A mom and dad both with sickle cell trait may each give the sickle cell gene to their child.
- Also, one mom or dad could have beta thalassemia and may give that gene to his/her child.
- Many parents with sickle cell trait or beta thalassemia trait do not know they have it.

What doctors will help my child stay healthy?

- It is important that you keep up with your regular visits to the Pediatrician.
- You will also be closely followed by social workers, education specialists, nurses, nurse practitioners, and doctors in a sickle cell clinic.
- Other specialized nurse practitioners or doctors may be needed to help your child.