approximate number of people in the United States affected by sickle cell disease, an inherited red blood cell disorder.

In someone with SCD, the red blood cells become hard, sticky and look like a crescent moon or C-shaped farm tool called a “sickle.” The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells. The sickle cells also get stuck and clog the blood flow. This results in pain in the bones and damage to some organs over time.

Pain is the most common symptom of Sickle Cell Disease, which can be severe in many patients.

Currently, the only available cure for SCD is hematopoietic stem cell (bone marrow) transplant. Children’s National has completed more than 50 transplants for SCD since 1996.

Children’s National has one of the largest SCD programs in the United States, seeing approximately 1400 patients annually.

Hematologists see patients at the main hospital in Washington, D.C., as well as at outpatient centers in Montgomery County and Laurel Lakes for routine health maintenance.

The Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Program includes:

- Sickle Cell Infant Clinic to treat children from birth to age 2
- Sickle Cell Adolescent Transition (SCAT) clinic to prepare patients ages 18-21 for transition from pediatric care to adult care
- Pain Clinic to manage pain of patients of all ages
- Hydroxyurea Education Class to teach patients and families about this medication, which helps prevent pain and other SCD-related complications
- Transfusion program that provides approx. 7,500 red blood cell units each year

One in 13 Black or African Americans has sickle cell trait (SCT), also known as a carrier, and 1 in 375 Black or African Americans has sickle cell disease (SCD). Sickle cell disease occurs in 1 in every 16,300 Hispanic-Americans.

The Facts and Figures

Sickle Cell Disease

100,000

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