



## Screening for Sickle Cell Disease in Newborns

<b>Population</b>	<b>All Newborns</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Screen for Sickle Cell Disease</b> <b>Grade: A</b>
Screening Tests	<p>Screening for sickle cell disease in newborns is mandated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.</p> <p>In most states, one of these tests is used for the initial screening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thin-layer isoelectric focusing (IEF)</li> <li>• high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)</li> </ul> <p>Both IEF and HPLC have extremely high sensitivity and specificity for sickle cell anemia.</p>
Timing of Screening	<p>All newborns should undergo screening regardless of birth setting. Birth attendants should make arrangements for samples to be obtained. The first clinician to see the infant at an office visit should verify screening results. Confirmatory testing should occur no later than 2 months of age.</p>
Treatment	<p>Infants with sickle cell anemia should receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prophylactic penicillin starting by age 2 months</li> <li>• pneumococcal immunizations at recommended intervals</li> </ul>
Other Relevant Recommendations from the USPSTF	<p>Additional USPSTF recommendations regarding screening tests for newborns can be accessed at <a href="http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/cps3dix.htm#pediatric">http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/cps3dix.htm#pediatric</a></p>

For the full [recommendation statement](#) on Screening for Sickle Cell Disease in Newborns and [supporting documents](#) please go to <http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov>.

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