

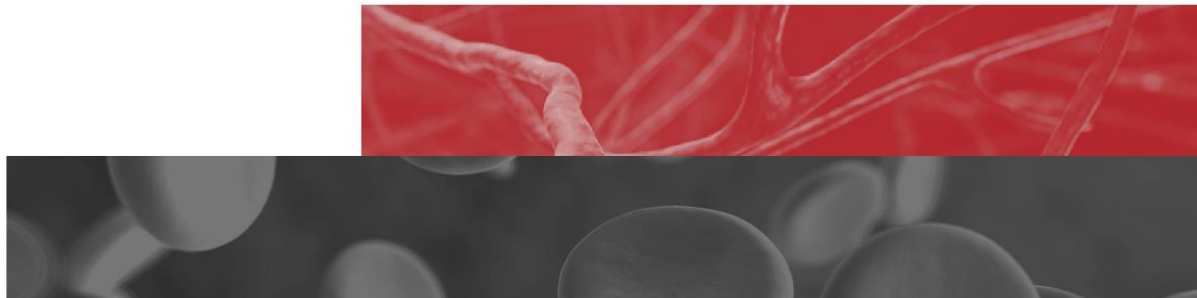


# Evidence-Based Management of Sickle Cell Disease

**Expert Panel Report, 2014**







# Evidence-Based Management of Sickle Cell Disease

Expert Panel Report, 2014



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
National Institutes of Health



National Heart, Lung,  
and Blood Institute



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# Foreword

The purpose of the “Evidence-Based Management of Sickle Cell Disease: Expert Panel Report (EPR), 2014” is to synthesize the available scientific evidence on sickle cell disease and offer guidance to busy primary care clinicians. Readers of this report should remember that this document is intended to provide guidance for management, not to be rigidly prescriptive. The panel recognizes that the responsible clinician’s judgment regarding the management of patients remains paramount. Therefore, the Expert Panel Report is a tool to be adopted and implemented in local and individual settings, and to provide an opportunity for shared decisionmaking in which providers and patients are both fully engaged.

The EPR has been developed under the outstanding leadership of panel co-chairs Drs. George Buchanan and Barbara Yawn. The production of this report generated much discussion regarding the quality of the available scientific literature, its interpretation, and its practical application. In the end, priority was given to delivering a document that both objectively evaluated and organized the evidence and could be put into practice in the clinical setting, because effective implementation is ultimately what is needed to bring about a change in outcomes.

The NHLBI is grateful for the tremendous dedication of time and the outstanding work of the expert panel, as well as the advice of invited outside experts, the National Blood Disorders Program Coordinating Committee, and other stakeholder groups in developing this report. The invaluable comments from professional societies; voluntary health, government, consumer/patient advocacy organizations; and industry during the public review period greatly enhanced the scientific value and practical utility of this document.

By developing this landmark report, the expert panel has taken a tremendous step towards addressing the health needs of the person with sickle cell disease in the primary care setting. It is incumbent upon the team of health professionals caring for these individuals to change the landscape of care by providing this state-of-the-science care. We are excited to be joined by all concerned in efforts to reach our common ultimate goal: improved health outcomes and quality of life for every person living with sickle cell disease.

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<sup>b</sup> These individuals contributed to the development of these guidelines during their tenure with American Institutes for Research (AIR).

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## Financial and Other Disclosures

NHLBI established the expert panel and invited the panel members. All members served as volunteers and received no compensation from NHLBI or any other entity for their participation.

During the development of these guidelines, measures were taken to ensure the transparency of the evidence review process and to manage all potential or perceived conflicts of interest. At the initial expert panel meeting, expert panel members were asked by the panel co-chairs to disclose interests and relationships that could potentially influence their participation or pose a potential conflict of interest. The responses are provided below.

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Prior to publication of the final report, the panel sought input from independent expert peer reviewers without financial conflicts of interest. The conclusions and synthesis of the scientific literature presented in this report represent a consensus but do not necessarily represent the views of individual reviewers.

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**Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM)**

**American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

**American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)**

**American Osteopathic Association (AOA)**

**American Society of Hematology (ASH)**

**American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO)**

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