

Sickle Cell Counselor Training & Certification Program



What is the Sickle Cell Counselor Training and Certification Program?

The goal of this statewide program is to ensure accurate sickle cell education and counseling, including:

- To provide the most current information on sickle cell disease and trait to affected individuals, their families, professional caregivers, health educators, and community members
- To provide training and resources for those who would like to educate others in the community about sickle cell trait and disease
- To train and certify sickle cell educators and counselors

The training program consists of an introductory course (Module I), an advanced course (Module II A), Educator Training, an advanced Counselor Course (Module II B), a counseling internship (Module III), and continuing education workshops and/or seminars (Module IV).

Who Should Attend?

The program is designed for healthcare professionals and paraprofessionals, community health workers & educators, and others interested in learning more about sickle cell conditions. Many individuals work in health, social services, community education organizations, medical offices, clinics, or hospitals.

- People seeking a general overview and up-to-date information on sickle cell disease, sickle cell trait, and related hemoglobinopathies can take the online self-paced eLearning **introductory course (Module I)**. Attending the introductory course will result in a certificate of completion.
- Participants interested in more advanced information should also take the 3-day (up to 7-day*) **advanced course, Module IIA**. Most healthcare professionals complete the module IIA course. Those who wish to be certified as Sickle Cell Educators need to pass the Module II A exam with 80% or greater and will be given documentation of satisfactory completion of the Sickle Cell Educator coursework.
- Those seeking to become Sickle Cell Counselors must pass the Sickle Cell Educator coursework with 80% or greater and complete **Module II B, the counseling skills training**, pass a final exam/mock counseling session at 80% or greater, and complete a **sickle cell counselor internship (Module III)**. State certification of sickle cell counselors is given through the California State Department of Public Health Genetic Disease Screening Program.

**Zoom online virtual schedule*

Content of Module I – Introductory Overview Course

6-hour self-paced eLearning course with one 1-hour live virtual cohort session.

- An overview of patterns of inheritance
- An overview of basic hemoglobin functions
- An overview of sickle cell disease, sickle cell trait, common hemoglobinopathies
- California Newborn Screening Program
- Follow-up care and treatment for sickle cell disease
- Overview of research

Content of Module II A, Advanced Course, Educator Training (3-7days*)

- Review of patterns of inheritance for hemoglobin traits and diseases
- Thalassemia traits and diseases
- Medical complications resulting from sickle cell disease
- Psychosocial and cross-cultural issues in sickle cell education and counseling
- Laboratory diagnosis of common hemoglobin traits and diseases
- Techniques for preparing educational presentations – requires mock presentation
- Optional - pass Module II A post-test with 80% or greater to receive a certificate of completion for Sickle Cell Educator Coursework.

Content of Module II B – Counseling Skills Training (3-7 days*) Steps for Successful Sickle Cell Counseling

- Demonstration of sickle cell counseling session components
- Skills to take and construct a focused genetic pedigree
- Strategies for counseling in complex cases
- Practice sessions for successful sickle cell counseling – requires mock counseling session

Content of Module III - Internship

- Orientation and review of counseling protocols
- Participate in mock/actual counseling sessions with supervision and written evaluations
- Certification as State Approved Sickle Cell Counselor

Note: Modules II B and III are provided on a limited basis, as needed

Content of Module IV - Continuing Education for Certified Sickle Cell Counselors

State-certified sickle cell counselors must complete 15 hours of continuing education every two years. This requirement can be fulfilled by attending approved workshops, seminars, conferences, and webinars on various topics related to hemoglobin disease and hemoglobin traits.

For information contact

Deborah Green, Director of Health Education
Sickle Cell Disease Foundation
email - deborahg@scdfc.org
phone (909) 743-5226
www.scdfc.org



Sickle Cell Counselor Training and Certification Program



Module 1 - Introduction to Sickle Cell Disease, Sickle Cell Trait & Common Hemoglobinopathies

- Self-paced, interactive eLearning modules.
- Taught by certified professionals.
- Created for those interested in learning more about sickle cell conditions.



Attendance at one 1-hour live virtual cohort session required

See registration for cohort session schedule

*Register online at www.scdcf.org/training
\$50 Registration Fee*

Module I Course Content – Introductory Overview Course
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SCAN to register



For Additional Information
email: deborahg@scdfc.org
(909) 743-5226