

ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE
Office for Students With Disabilities
Voice/Relay (661) 722-6360

Campus Police: ext. 4444 from campus phone; 722-6399 from cell phone
***80 from campus payphone**

A FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A STUDENT WHO HAS A REACTION AS A RESULT OF SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA can be frightening to those who have it and to those who see it. With your help and understanding, it needn't be.

Students with sickle-cell anemia will usually inform their instructors of their condition and how sickle-cell anemia can affect them. In any case, the Office for Students With Disabilities will make faculty aware of students who have sickle-cell anemia when we have been asked to do so by students. In all cases, a few simple procedures should be followed anywhere on campus.

WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT HAS AN EPISODE CAUSED BY SICKLE CELL ANEMIA IN CLASS:

Send a student to call Campus Police (see numbers above) if the student has an episode. Campus Police will determine whether or not to call emergency personnel when they arrive.

Keep observers calm – avoid fear and panic.

What is Sickle-Cell Anemia?

Sickle-cell anemia is an inherited chronic illness, which results in anemia (low blood counts), episodes of pain, and increased susceptibility to infections. Any complication, if severe or untreated, can be life threatening. Immediate treatment at a hospital or sickle-cell center is required under these circumstances.

This illness is still prevalent among people with recent ancestry in malaria-stricken areas such as Africa, the Mediterranean, India, and the Middle East. In fact, sickle-cell anemia is the most common genetic disorder among African Americans; about 1 in every 12 is a carrier.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA:

1. Sickle-cell students may be absent because of severe pain episodes caused by the blockage of blood flow to body organs or bones. These students may require treatment in a hospital setting.
2. Pain episodes may also be prevented by not allowing the individual to become overheated or exposed to cold temperatures.
3. Because of their anemia, individuals with sickle cell may tire before others and a rest period may be appropriate.
4. Sickle-cell patients may have a yellow tint to their eyes because of the anemia; this is not usually a liver problem. They also have a shorter stature and delayed puberty.
5. Those with sickle-cell should be treated as normal as possible with an awareness that they may have intermittent episodes of pain, infection, or fatigue that can be treated, and sometimes prevented through adequate water intake, avoiding temperature extremes, and “overdoing” it.