Contact the team

The service is available between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Tuesday to Thursday (excluding Bank Holidays). Outside of these hours please contact the BCH Haemoglobinopathy Unit (0121 333 8861), GP, Walk in centre or 999 in the event of an emergency.

Address:

Haemoglobinopathy Service
Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre
Venture Way
Brierley Hill
DY5 1RU
Telephone: 01384 321 242
Fax: 01384 321 230
Email: m.navarro@nhs.net

Feedback

We always want to hear about the care or treatment your child receives from our service, you can fill in our online feedback form at www.bcpft.nhs.uk/friendsandfamilytest or download the **'mi experience'** app available in all app stores.

www.bcpft.nhs.uk

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NHS
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Dudley Haemoglobinopathy Service

Information Leaflet

Children, Young People & Families

About the service

The Haemoglobinopathy service works with children, young people, families and adults who live in Dudley who have Dudley GP and who have been diagnosed with a haemoglobinopathy disorder such as Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) or Beta Thalassemia Major (BTM).

The staff screens and counsels pregnant women during the antenatal period who are known carriers of the gene, counsels parents on new-born bloodspot results for the national screening programme and assesses, supports and educates individuals with a haemoglobinopathy disease and those who are carriers of an unusual haemoglobin genes.

What is Haemoglobinopathy?

Haemoglobinopathy is a disorder of the red blood cell (RBC). The red blood cells contain a substance called haemoglobin and its function is to carry oxygen around the body. This condition is inherited from both parents who are affected or are carriers of the unusual haemoglobins.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is when the red blood cell changes its shape from round soft and flexible to a crescent sickled shape. As a result the RBC loses its capacity to carry oxygen resulting to severe anaemia and blockage (vaso-occlusion) in the circulation. The typical feature of SCD is severe pain which is managed with increased fluid intake, pain killers and opiates and rest.

On the other hand, Beta Thalassemia Major (BTM) is when the body is unable to produce its own RBC. The patient needs regular blood transfusion at a very early age after birth to survive. In effect, the body accumulates the excess iron in the liver, endocrines and the heart. Patients takes medications that remove iron from the body to prevent fatal complications, this is known Chelation.

Both conditions affect the individuals and their family's general health and lifestyle. Patients and their family need support and follow up by both hospital and community specialist health professionals to cope with the impact and difficulty brought by the condition.

The Haemoglobinopathy service will provide advice, support and education on both of these conditions as well as improve the health outcomes for children, young people, families and adults within Dudley.

Making a referral

Referrals are taken from GP's, consultants, nurses, school or self-referral to the Haemoglobinopathy Specialist Nurse, details can be found on the back page of this leaflet.

Further information

You may find the following websites useful:

http://sct.screening.nhs.uk/publications

http://sct.screening.nhs.uk/languages

. Sickle Cell Society: http://www.sicklecellsociety.org/