



PATIENT-CENTERED PRIORITIES TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR THE SICKLE CELL COMMUNITY



01 REDUCE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

Medical bills add up quickly, and can lead patients to delay or skip appointments and treatments. Patients and caregivers pay **high out-of-pocket costs** for medical appointments and hospitalizations (\$150/month) and medications (\$54/month).*



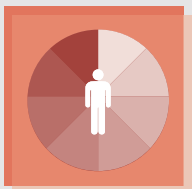
02 ADDRESS STIGMA IN HEALTHCARE

Stigma and racism in the healthcare system leads to poor quality of care for sickle cell patients. **Patients are hesitant to seek care** when faced with stigma and discrimination.



03 INCREASE PRICING TRANSPARENCY

Unexpected medical bills are a source of stress. Patients must know estimated cost before receiving treatments and services.



04 UNDERSTAND INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONALIZED NEEDS

Sickle cell is **unique and different for each person**. Patients should not be required to try other treatments before their health plan will cover the prescribed treatment that works for them.



05 PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR ALTERNATIVE CARE

Patients use **alternative medicines** to help relieve pain and other symptoms. These should be part of a person's treatment plan and covered by health plans, like pain-relieving therapy (\$48/month) and supplements (\$38/month)*.



06 EMPHASIZE "WHOLE PERSON" HEALTH

Sickle cell **affects nearly every organ system**, as well as **physical and mental health**. Patients require comprehensive health plans that cover social, medical, pharmacy, and behavioral needs.

*Average monthly out-of-pocket costs reported from the "My Life With Sickle Cell Disease" Survey (Sick Cells, 2020)

Sick Cells' Ambassador Program is focused on ensuring the voice of the patient is an integral part of care for sickle cell. We advocate for innovations that reflect priorities of patients and **promote increased access** to affordable, high-value health care.

For more information, visit sickcells.org/ambassador-program.