



# Cell and Gene Therapy— Sickle Cell Disease



[dhs.wi.gov/medicaid/cgt.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/medicaid/cgt.htm)

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is participating in the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' \(CMS\) Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model](#).

Wisconsin Medicaid members have access to cell and gene therapy to treat sickle cell disease.

## How does cell and gene therapy treat sickle cell disease?

Cell and gene therapies treat sickle cell disease by correcting the mutation in the person's genes that is causing the disease. These therapies may improve quality of life, increase life expectancy, and even approach a cure for people living with sickle cell disease. Two new treatments were approved in 2023 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat sickle cell disease.

## Medicaid and sickle cell disease

Medicaid pays for doctor's visits related to sickle cell disease. This includes cell and gene therapy appointments as well as services to manage sickle cell disease. Medicaid also covers continuing care for chronic complications and organ damage caused by sickle cell disease before receiving cell and gene therapy.

### Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT)

Medicaid pays for transportation to medical appointments when you have no other way to get there.

- Transportation for any sickle cell disease-related appointment is considered a **critical care ride**.
- If you are undergoing cell and gene therapy far from home, you may also qualify for lodging and money for meals.
- You may travel with additional riders, such as a support person—just tell the NEMT manager when you schedule your ride.

### Fertility preservation

Patients receive chemotherapy as part of the cell and gene therapy treatment, which could result in infertility—the inability to have children in the future.

- Fertility preservation is **not** a covered Medicaid benefit but may be available at no cost through the drug companies for those who are part of the CMS Access Model.
- Fertility preservation is the collection, freezing, and storing of reproductive material that could be used to try to have a child at a future date. This service is available for both men and women.

## Is cell and gene therapy an option for me?

Ask your hematology doctor (sickle cell disease specialist) if you might be a candidate for cell and gene therapy. You can also connect with Sickle Cell Warriors of Wisconsin ([sicklecellmke.org](https://sicklecellmke.org)) for support and information.