WHY?
The NCAA currently requires Division I and II incoming, and eventually all, student-athletes to complete sickle cell screening, show results of a prior test, or sign a written release declining the test.

The Center for Sickle Cell Disease can help you meet this requirement efficiently, with the best interests of your student-athletes in mind. Our goal is to provide you with a sickle cell screening service of high quality that will lead to the most informative results for your student-athletes and for your department.

HOW?
We will arrange up to two visits to your campus to provide screening of your athletes. We can also arrange for screening at Howard University. We are currently able to screen 20 athletes per three-hour session. Students will be provided educational material so they can make an informed decision about being tested.

After completing a consent form, a finger prick of the athlete provides enough blood for screening. HPLC testing is done as it is the “gold standard” of screening and allows the most reliable information in regards to the student’s status. Solubility testing (as required by the NCAA) can lead to false negative and false positive results.

Results are available **10 days** after screening. These results will be mailed to the student. Upon obtaining the student-athlete’s written consent, results may also be released directly to an identified athletic trainer or coach.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE RESULTS INDICATE SICKLE CELL TRAIT?
Any student-athlete who is found to have sickle cell trait, or other genetic variants, will be called at the number provided, in addition to receiving a mailed copy. We will offer genetic counseling via phone to answer questions and ensure the student’s understanding of their result.

WHAT IS THE COST?
For groups of less than 20, the cost per athlete is $20.
For groups of 20 or more, the cost per athlete is $15.
Payment can be made via cash or check, from the individual student or the athletic department.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?
Please contact Barbara Harrison, Director of Community Outreach and Education, if you have questions, or if you are interested in pursuing this service for your students. The phone number is 202-738-7527 or e-mail at bwharrison@howard.edu.