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Guidance

Sickle cell and thalassaemia screening: education and training

Training and continuing professional development (CPD) for people working in the sickle cell and thalassaemia screening programme in England.

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From:

Public Health England (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>)

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This guide sets out education and training resources available to healthcare professionals working in the sickle cell and thalassaemia (SCT) screening programme.

e-Learning

Most e-learning developed by the NHS screening programmes is available on the e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH) website.

Read about SCT e-learning (<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/nhs-screening-programmes/>) and sign up for e-Learning for Healthcare. (<https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Register>)

e-Learning for GPs

Complete the British Medical Journal's antenatal and newborn screening module (<https://learning.bmj.com/learning/module-intro/.html?moduleId=10031119>) to learn about:

- the principles of screening and how they are applied in practice
- what screening programmes are available
- how to advise patients about the timing of screening tests

Haemoglobinopathies: S.C.T. screening programme update

The next study days are:

Date: Tuesday 16 June 2020

Time: 10:00 to 16:30

Location: London (venue to be confirmed)

Apply for the study day (https://www1.kcl.ac.uk/teares/nmvc/external/prospectus/study_info.php?code=KSHAE_)

Date: Thursday 25 June 2020

Time: 10:00 to 16:30

Location: Manchester (venue to be confirmed)

Apply for the study day (https://www1.kcl.ac.uk/teares/nmvc/external/prospectus/study_info.php?code=KSHAE_)

This study day is for non specialist nurses, midwives and health visitors so that they can:

- develop an understanding of the antenatal and newborn sickle cell and thalassaemia screening programme in England
- gain a basic knowledge of sickle cell and thalassaemia and how these conditions are inherited
- learn how to interpret screening results
- understand the structures which support and maintain the quality of the programme

The course is funded by the N.H.S. Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme and is free to applicants.

Haemoglobinopathies: specialist counsellors update

The next study days are on:

Date: 27 April 2021

Time: 10:00 to 16:30

Location: Online

Apply for the study day (<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/short-courses/nursing-5>)

Date: 14 September 2021

Time: 10:00 to 16:30

Location: King's College London (Waterloo Campus), or online if necessary due to coronavirus (COVID-19)

Apply for the study day (<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/short-courses/nursing-5>)

This one day update is targeted at practitioners who have previously undertaken the **PEGASUS** course or an alternative sickle cell and thalassaemia related module.

Applicants must be responsible for counselling women and couples at risk of having an affected baby as part of the **NHS** Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme. This includes the offer of prenatal diagnosis and/or giving results to parent(s) who have given birth to an affected child.

The course is funded by the **NHS** Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme and is free to applicants.

Genetic risk assessment and counselling module

This 4-day course is for **NHS** staff who provide counselling to 'at risk' couples as identified by the **NHS** **SCIT** screening programme. The course covers:

- haemoglobin disorders
- practical applications of genetics in health care
- genetic testing
- prevention of genetic disorders
- prenatal diagnosis and genetic counselling

Read about course dates on the King's College London website.

(https://www1.kcl.ac.uk/teares/nmvc/external/prospectus/course_info.php?code=7KNIM742)

Laboratory update days

These update days are for bench level staff, haematology laboratory managers and consultant haematologists. They take place from 9am to 5pm and include:

- a programme and laboratory update
- quality assurance update
- a clinical talk

- interactive case studies
- an open forum

There is no cost for this training day. For further details please contact the **SCT** programme team.

We publicise upcoming laboratory training days through the PHE Screening blog (<https://phescreening.blog.gov.uk/>). Click on the laboratories tag on the blog page to find blog articles relating to screening laboratories.

Counselling

The sickle cell and thalassaemia counselling knowledge and skills guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sickle-cell-and-thalassaemia-counselling-knowledge-and-skills>) describes the knowledge and skills required by health professionals who provide counselling for families at risk of sickle cell disease, thalassaemia and other haemoglobinopathies identified by **SCT** screening.

It includes:

- knowledge and skills guide detailing the counselling skills and learning outcomes required across 8 core competences
- an assessment record learners can print out or complete online

Watch videos supporting the competences (<https://vimeo.com/album/4864645>) on Vimeo.

Education and training: all programmes

Read and download education and training resources for all screening programmes. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-population-screening-education-and-training>) This includes:

- midwife resource cards
- the screening timeline
- events

Health Knowledge: screening overview

The interactive learning on screening (<http://www.healthknowledge.org.uk/interactive-learning/screening>) available from Health Knowledge is helpful for new and non clinical staff or those returning after a long period of absence.

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1. 28 January 2021
Added new 2021 dates for the haemoglobinopathies: specialist counsellors update course.
2. 6 January 2021

Replaced link to old information on counselling competences with link to new counselling knowledge and skills guidance.

3. 23 May 2019

Added details of October 2019 training days.

4. 9 April 2019

Added details of upcoming 'Haemoglobinopathies: specialist counsellors update' course.

5. 5 April 2019

Next study day details added for non specialist nurses, midwives and health visitors.

6. 15 February 2019

Added latest information on training and continuing professional development (CPD) events.

7. 8 February 2018

Updated and corrected information on laboratory update days.

8. 8 December 2017

First published.

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Brexit

Check how the new Brexit rules affect you

(<https://www.gov.uk/transition>)

Related content

- Sickle cell and thalassaemia counselling knowledge and skills (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sickle-cell-and-thalassaemia-counselling-knowledge-and-skills>)
- Bowel cancer screening: education and training (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bowel-cancer-screening-education-and-training>)
- Diabetic eye screening: education and training (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/diabetic-eye-screening-education-and-training>)
- Newborn hearing screening programme (NHSP) operational guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/newborn-hearing-screening-programme-nhsp-operational-guidance>)
- Diabetic eye screening: test and training participation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diabetic-eye-screening-test-and-training-participation>)

Explore the topic

- NHS sickle cell and thalassaemia (SCT) screening programme (<https://www.gov.uk/topic/population-screening-programmes/sickle-cell-thalassaemia>)