

## **NCAA Recommendation: Student Athletes Should Be Screened for SICKLE CELL DISEASE/TRAIT**

On April 1, 2010, following the recommendations of the [National Athletic Trainers' Association](#) and the [College of American Pathologists](#), the NCAA passed legislation requiring universities to obtain the sickle cell status of NCAA athletes. The NCAA is recommending its member colleges and universities confirm sickle cell trait status of football student athletes, if that information is not already known. Although most student athletes complete their careers without any complications, screening and status knowledge can be used as a gateway to targeted precautions. Division I schools approved testing legislation in 2010, requiring all of its member institutions to offer a sickle cell test to incoming student athletes beginning in fall, 2010. Division II schools followed on Aug. 1, 2012. Division III is also considering that legislation and could vote on a proposal next January.

If an athlete born in Pennsylvania after Sept. 19, 1992, needs the results of his/her SICKLE CELL DISEASE/TRAIT screen for NCAA Clearance, it is recommended that the individual or the individual's legal guardian contact his/her primary care physician (PCP) or hospital of birth to obtain a **complete** copy of the newborn screening result. However, if the individual does not have a PCP, or their PCP and/or hospital of birth does not have a complete newborn screen report, the individual or the individual's legal guardian may complete the [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health Authorization to Obtain Newborn Screening Results Form](#) and fax the form to the Department of Health's Bureau of Family Health Newborn Screening Section at 717-724-6995. Upon receipt of a complete form, department staff will confirm the information and honor the request, if the information is available. Incomplete forms will require follow-up with the requestor for additional information. It is the department's policy that screening results will only be released to the student athlete's PCP or legal representative, the student athlete (if 18 years of age or older), or the student athlete's parent/legal guardian, if the student in question is under 18 years of age upon receipt and verification of a complete consent for release. It is the department's position that medical information related to an individual's heritage and/or lineage carries many social, legal and ethical implications. Other persons receiving such information, except the individual or his/her parent/legal guardian, must possess sufficient medical knowledge to interpret and translate screening results to the individual. Section 1 of the form must be completed with the most accurate and up-to-date information possible.

**Please note that the department does not receive complete screen results. Complete screen results can only be obtained from the individual's PCP or hospital of birth.**