

## Emergency

# Priapism

### What is priapism?

This is a common complication in males with sickle cell disease. It is a painful erection unrelated to sexual arousal caused by the obstruction of blood vessels in the penis by sickled cells. This can even occur in younger boys prior to puberty.

### Symptoms:

- Painful erection of the penis
- Can last less than 2 hours or more than 4 hours

### What to do:

- Early treatment is important to prevent complications. If you notice these symptoms, contact your care team or seek care immediately.