

NOTICE:

Updated Sickle Cell Testing Information for College Athletes Born in Massachusetts



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

New England
Newborn Screening
Program



What You Need to Know

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) requires student-athletes to show their sickle cell status before they can participate in sports

Can I use my Massachusetts newborn screening results, since they already include sickle cell screening?

No. While newborn screening in Massachusetts includes testing for sickle cell, it does not meet NCAA requirements.

Why can't I use my newborn screening results to meet NCAA sickle cell testing requirements?

The NCAA requires a specific test called a sickle cell solubility test. Newborn screening uses a different type of test.

What can I do instead?

Contact your healthcare provider—they can order a sickle cell solubility test, the NCAA-approved test, for you.

If you need help finding a healthcare provider, visit the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers "Find a Community Health Center" tool. Another option is to order testing directly from a commercial lab service, such as Quest Health or LabCorp On Demand.

Will this delay my ability to play sports?

It will if you do not act early.

Check deadlines with your school or athletic department and contact your healthcare provider or a testing laboratory as soon as possible.

Questions? Scan for Resources:

Find a Community
Health Center



Quest
Sickle Cell Test



Labcorp
OnDemand



NCAA
CSMAS Report



NCAA
Mental Health
Best Practices



NCAA
Sickle Cell
Trait Info

