

Cayenne Wellness Center's Sickle Cell Pledge

It starts with you. It is unacceptable for the medical community to tolerate this racist mistreatment of patients living with SCD in our emergency departments and hospitals. Our hospitals and clinics must be safe spaces for patients with SCD.

It starts with you. All healthcare providers must be open-minded and self-aware as they care for patients with SCD, recognizing their own implicit biases and making a conscious effort to treat patients equitably, regardless of race.

It starts with you. United action against racism's impact on the health of patients with SCD is long overdue.

It starts with you. Change begins with a conversation, but words are not sufficient; we must take action to make enduring improvements in the care of patients with SCD.

It begins NOW. Let's take the pledge.

Persons diagnosed with SCD are born into pain.

Persons diagnosed with SCD are human beings. They are someone's wife, husband, daughter, son, mother, father.

I will stop calling and referring to patients as 'sicklers' and 'frequent flyers' and correct others when they do it. (When I See something, I will Say something).

I now know that the majority of patients diagnosed with SCD are NOT drug addicts, nor are they feigning their pain. Only 1% of the population may have issues with addiction.

Persons diagnosed with SCD know what works for them to manage their pain. Knowing this does not make them suspect for addiction.

When a patient states that the pain they are experiencing is different, I will assist in making the physician aware to run more tests and keep them for observation. This action can save their life. (DDX for acute chest syndrome, blood clot).

I will assist in getting persons with SCD assessed and triaged rapidly, assigned high priority for evaluation, AND receive their first analgesic within 60 minutes of arrival to the ED.

I pledge to be a nurse, physician, and caregiver advocate for persons diagnosed with SCD. Sickle Cell Lives Matter, and it begins with ME.

NAME:

DATE:

Take the pledge and serve with compassion!