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Are you uninsured? You can enroll in Medicaid and other plans until Dec. 15 at healthcare.gov. This short video explains more about how to

enroll: https://youtu.be/k1rxTQlbbWQ.

Giving Tuesday is Tuesday, Dec. 3. Simply put, it's a day that encourages people to do good. Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to give. There's also an opportunity to generate awareness for sickle cell through #MyGivingStory that day. Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to show your support for #SCDAAMI.

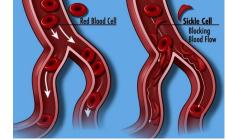


Two weeks bring two new treatments for sickle cell

On Nov. 15, the FDA approved Adakveo from Novartis, the first

treatment created specifically for sickle cell disease. Right on its heels was the FDA's Nov. 25 approval of <u>Voxelotor</u> from Global Blood Therapeutics.

"Adakveo is the first targeted therapy approved for sickle cell disease, specifically inhibiting selectin, a substance that contributes to cells sticking together and leads to vaso-occlusive crisis," said Richard Pazdur, M.D., director of the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence and acting director of the Office of Oncologic Diseases in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation



and Research. "Vaso-occlusive crisis can be extremely painful and is a frequent reason for emergency department visits and hospitalization for patients with sickle cell disease."

Voxelotor directly inhibits sickle hemoglobin polymerization, the root cause of SCD. The once a day tablet for children and adults 12 and over is expected to be available through GBT's specialty pharmacy partner network within two weeks.

"When we started our journey with the SCD community more than eight years ago, we set out to transform the way this devastating, lifelong disease is treated," said Ted W. Love, M.D., president and chief executive officer of GBT. "We are proud to bring this breakthrough therapy to the SCD community. Uniquely developed from inception to treat SCD, Oxbryta embodies GBT's commitment to develop and deliver innovative medicines for patients with overlooked, life-limiting chronic diseases. We are grateful to the patients, caregivers, clinical trial investigators, healthcare providers and advocates who have worked alongside us to develop this first-in-class therapy."

"Thanks to the Orphan Drug Act, there are numerous promising clinical trials underway. We are also encouraged by the National Institutes of Health's Cure Sickle Cell Initiative striving for a genetic cure in the next five to 10 years," said Dr. Wanda Whitten-Shurney. "Our next challenge is to make sure the medication is accessible to the patients who so desperately need it. Individuals with sickle cell disease are living longer, but we are also focused on improving their quality of life."





Dr. Ahmar Zaidi

"There are better ways to measure pain than through a scale of 1-10."

TED^xDetroit

We were thrilled to watch our own Ahmar Zaidi, M.D. address the 2019 TEDxDetroit audience on the heart-wrenching challenges of life with sickle cell disease. Dr. Zaidi is a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinic at Children's Hospital of Michigan and an ally and advocate in the fight for equitable care. His words brought enlightenment, tears, and hopefully lit a spark for much-needed change in patient treatment. Watch video here: https://youtu.be/RAvi5y95Nyg