

THALASSEMIA TREATMENT CENTERS

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If you do not live near a Thalassemia Treatment Center, there may be a satellite center near you. Please contact the Cooley's Anemia Foundation's Patient Services Department at 800-522-7222 or info@cooleysanemia.org for additional sites.



Made possible by a cooperative agreement with Cooley's Anemia Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Blood Disorders.

For more information about CDC programs:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hbd/thalassemia.htm>

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1600 Clifton Road, MS E 64, Atlanta, GA 30333
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Providing a Team Approach to a Complicated Disease



What are Thalassemia Treatment Centers?

Thalassemia Treatment Centers (TTCs) are specialized clinics within hospitals that offer access to:

- Health care providers who are specialists in treating thalassemia and its complications.
- Up-to-date information about thalassemia care.
- New technology and treatment plans designed to improve the care of people with thalassemia.

Why should I go to a TTC?

A TTC brings together doctors, nurses, and other health care providers who have treated many patients with this rare disease. This experience gives them knowledge that is important in preparing you for thalassemia's special challenges. You can go to a TTC for your regular treatment, or visit a TTC once a year for an annual comprehensive care check-up to prevent complications that can affect your health.

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 **Cooley's Anemia**
FOUNDATION
Leading the Fight Against Thalassemia

What can I expect at a comprehensive care check-up?

At a comprehensive care check-up, your doctor will look for any complications of thalassemia by examining your:

Heart & Liver

Your heart and liver will be checked for signs of damage from too much iron, and your blood pressure will be checked for problems that can affect your heart and health.

Growth & Development

Your body and bones will be checked to make sure that you are growing properly.

Vision & Hearing

Your eyes and ears will be checked to make sure that you are seeing and hearing correctly.

Transfusion Records & Iron Removal

Your current transfusion and iron removal treatment schedule will be checked to see if they need any changes.

Gene Tests

You might have gene tests to let your doctor know more about your body's special make-up.

Blood

Your blood will be checked for infections that can be caused by blood transfusions.

"Five years ago, I wasn't taking care of myself. I could barely walk and had trouble breathing. Now I know how important Comprehensive Care is."

- a patient in PA

A complete list of what is covered in the check-up can be found in the Recommended Annual Comprehensive Evaluation Exam List. To obtain your copy, please contact the Cooley's Anemia Foundation's Patient Services Department at 800-522-7222 or info@cooleysanemia.org.

What is the Blood Safety Program?

The Blood Safety Program helps monitor people who have taken blood and blood products to see if they have developed any infections that can be transmitted through blood.

If you have thalassemia major or intermedia, you will be asked to give a small sample of blood each year. Your sample, along with those of others will help the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify infections possibly transmitted through blood so that steps can be taken to help make blood products safer.

