If you have sickle cell disease, your body makes sickle-shaped, or crescent-shaped, red blood cells. For sickle cell disease, a medicine called hydroxyurea may be able to help. People who take hydroxyurea must have regular medical care. A doctor who knows about hydroxyurea can tell you about the risks and benefits of taking this medicine.

Taken daily by mouth, hydroxyurea can help by:

- Reducing the likelihood of having a pain event
- Preventing symptoms like acute chest syndrome, a condition similar to pneumonia
- Reducing the need for blood transfusions
- Reducing emergency visits and hospitalizations
- Improving quality of life