Reported symptoms in SCD and school absence

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Survey
569 in total
Missing School

Children with SCD miss over 16 days of school per year.
Comparison with total UK school population

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<th>Days absence</th>
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<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>11</td>
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Rather fewer than in the SCD group.
Because?

Is the reported severity of SCD symptoms and/or clinical signs associated with the number of days of school missed?
Possible predictors

Sickle cell painful crises
Stroke
Blood transfusions
Hospital admissions
Hydroxyurea
Crises – Days missed
Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.198
Stroke – Days missed

In a different direction to that we might expect
Blood transfusions – Days missed

Again, in a different direction to that we might expect
Emergency blood transfusions – Days missed

At least in right direction, but NS
Admitted to hospital 3 or more times – days missed

Much more likely to miss school if they have been hospitalized 3 or more times, $p < 0.000$
Taking hydroxyurea – days missed

More likely to miss school if they are taking hydroxyurea, $p = 0.048$
Number of people who know the young person has SCD – days missed

No clear relationship
Absence from school in young people with SCD is a complex phenomenon not easily explained by symptom severity or how many people know the young person has SCD.

Lack of pattern in the data indicates the possibility that the young person with SCD constructs the meaning of their illness in relation to their perceptions of the school and how it deals with SCD rather than more directly on the signs and symptoms of SCD.