

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved exagamglogene autotemcel (exa-cel) and lovo-cel for the treatment of sickle cell disease (SCD) in patients 12 years or older. "These approvals represent an important medical advance with the use of innovative cell-based gene therapies to target potentially devastating diseases and improve public health," said Peter Marks, MD, PhD, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. Approved in the treatment of patients with SCD with recurrent vaso-occlusive crises, exa-cel increases the production of fetal hemoglobin and prevents the sickling of red blood cells. Much like exa-cel, this treatment is indicated for patients with SCD and a history of vaso-occlusive crises.