

What To Do If You Get A Fever While On Chemotherapy

Why This is Very Important:

When you are undergoing treatment for cancer, you may develop a weakened immune system. You may also have a fever. When you have a fever while your immune system is weakened, this is called *febrile neutropenia* or *neutropenic fever*.

It is very important that you take your temperature if you think you might have a fever.

If you have a fever, you will need to call your cancer doctor (oncologist) and go to a Sentara emergency room.

As an extra precaution, please carry the card attached with you. If you develop a fever and need to go to the emergency room, show this card at registration. There are steps in place for you to receive care immediately.

Keep this card with you at all times.

When visiting a Sentara emergency room, show this card at registration. Your oncologist will fill in the back of the card with a phone number.

Neutropenic Risk

Hospital Medical Alert

Please Use Neutropenic Fever Protocols



If you have recently received chemotherapy OR you know your blood counts are low, **and your temperature is equal to or greater than 100.4°F or 38.0°C** please follow these important steps:

1. Call your doctor immediately

- Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. call your primary oncologist's office.
- All other times, call:

2. Go to a Sentara emergency room and show this card to the receptionist, nurse and physician (unless instructed differently).

- Emergency Staff: Please see ED: Neutropenic Fever Order Set and Notify Physician to Start Antibiotics in 1 hour.



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