



Eastern  
Health

*SECTION OF PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY*

MEMO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A child who is on chemotherapy or has been on chemotherapy in the last six months and presents to the Emergency Department with a single temperature of  $38.3^{\circ}$  C orally ( $37.8^{\circ}$  underarm) or a temperature of  $38^{\circ}$  C orally ( $37.5^{\circ}$  underarm) taken on two occasions at least one hour apart. (The temperature taken by parents at home must be counted).

**MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY:**

**PLEASE DO:**

1. CBC and differential immediately. This may be done by a finger puncture.
2. Septic work up (**Must include blood cultures from central line**)
3. If absolute neutrophil count is less than  $0.5 \times 10^9/L$  or less than  $1.0 \times 10^9/L$  and falling. **Start on IV antibiotics within 1 hour of arrival at ER Department and admit to hospital.**

These parents have been instructed **NOT** to give Tylenol prior to coming to the hospital. If a child is neutropenic, Acetaminophen should not be given unless the child is receiving antibiotics.

When children are receiving chemotherapy, they must **NOT** be given anything rectally, including medication (Acetaminophen). They also must **NOT** have temperature taken rectally. They must **NOT** be given any NSAID such as Aspirin or Advil.

If there are any questions, please call Pediatric Oncology on call at (709) 777-6300 or J4 Medicine at the Janeway at (709) 777-4340.

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