

**Guidelines for Emergency Management  
of Febrile Neutopenia In Children**

# Treat Promptly!



**Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology  
Oncology Network  
Réseau d'Oncologie Hématologie Pédiatriques des Provinces Atlantiques  
(APPHON/ROHPPA)**

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Fever in children and youth with neutropenia or immunosuppression can be life threatening and must be treated promptly.

Sick children with neutropenia may have no symptoms, including no fever, due to impaired granulocyte and immune responses.

Patients post stem cell transplant are very immunosuppressed & can have active GVHD.

Antibiotics are recommended if febrile or sick even if not neutropenic

Children must be **ASSESSED and antibiotics started** within **1 HOUR** of arrival in Emergency Department.

Call Paediatric Haematologist-Oncologist On-Call within **1 HOUR** of presentation to discuss management **902-470-8888** or **1-888-470-5888** (toll free)

Refer to comprehensive guidelines at:

[www.apphon-rohppa.com](http://www.apphon-rohppa.com)

## Assessment

- Stabilize child
- Immediately access Central Venous Line
  - Do not wait for freezing cream
  - Peripheral access if unable to access central line
- Draw bloods **within 30 minutes**
  - Blood Culture,
  - CBC & differential STAT
  - Lactate level STAT
- **Antibiotics:**
  - **Must start within 1 HOUR even if ANC is not yet available**
  - Refer to Pre-printed orders and algorithm for guidance
- Do NOT give NSAIDs

## Definitions

### Fever

- Temperature taken at home by parent **MUST** be taken into account
- Mouth/Ear
  - 38.3°C & over - 1 reading
  - 38°C & over - 2 readings 1 hour apart
- Armpit (Axilla)
  - 37.8°C & over - 1 reading
  - 37.5°C & over - 2 readings 1 hr apart
- Do NOT take RECTAL temperatures

### Neutropenia

- ANC less than  $0.5 \times 10^9/L$

### Unstable/Sick child

Symptoms/signs may include:

- Hypotensive needing fluid resuscitation
- Rigors/Chills
- Limp, unresponsive
- Need for intensive care

## Treatment

If **STABLE** this child should receive:

### MONOTHERAPY

- Piperacillin-Tazobactam : \_\_\_\_\_  
or
- CeftAZIDime: \_\_\_\_\_

### DUAL THERAPY

- add Vancomycin: \_\_\_\_\_

If **UNSTABLE**, this child should receive:

- Piperacillin-Tazobactam : \_\_\_\_\_  
or
- CeftAZIDime: \_\_\_\_\_
- Vancomycin \_\_\_\_\_
- Tobramycin \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

## Information

Please fax assessment & treatment documents to 902-470-7208

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ (dd/mm/yyyy)

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-morbidities: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescriber: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (dd/mm/yyyy)