

PATIENT INFORMATION

Low Risk Neutropenia Pathway

Acute Oncology

Information for patients who have a low white blood cell count and an infection following chemotherapy that can be managed as an outpatient

You have developed an infection and currently have a low white blood cell count as a result of your chemotherapy treatment.

Your healthcare team have examined you and performed various blood tests, they feel it is safe to discharge you home with antibiotic tablet treatment for your infection.

We know this is safe practice and of benefit to patients. However, patients occasionally need to return to hospital and have antibiotics intravenously through a drip.

There is a risk that your infection could develop into sepsis (blood poisoning), which can be a life-threatening complication, so we ask you to be vigilant and contact the 24-hour advice line immediately if you experience any of the following:

- You feel worse
- You are not improving despite taking the antibiotic tablets as instructed
- You have new or worsening symptoms e.g.
- Feeling generally unwell, not able to get out of bed. Flu like symptoms - feeling cold and shivery, headaches, aching muscles
 - Change in temperature – 37.5°C or higher OR below 36°C
 - Coughing up green phlegm
 - A sore throat

- Diarrhoea - 4 or more loose, watery bowel movements in 24 hours
- Being sick/vomiting
- Pain or burning when passing urine
- Skin changes – redness, hotness, swelling or pain
- Redness, pain, hotness or swelling around your PICC/central line if you have one

After discharge:

- You will have a follow up telephone appointment with the acute oncology team- please note their working hours are Mon- Friday 9-5 excluding bank holidays. It is very important that this review takes place, so that we can monitor your progress and make changes to treatment if required.
- You have been given antibiotic tablets; please take these regularly as directed.
- Contact your cancer centre 24- hour advice line if you have any problems or return to A&E.

Clatterbridge 0800 169 5555/ Christie 0161 446 3658

During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have questions or concerns.

MATRON

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:

As above

CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION

- Return to A&E immediately or if unable dial 999

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) – 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) – 0800 328 6297

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need
this leaflet in an alternative format**

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

Ormskirk & District General Hospital
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ
Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN
Tel: (01704) 547471

FOR APPOINTMENTS

Telephone (01695) 656680
Email soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net

We would welcome your feedback about your experience
at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.
Please access the Friends and Family Test at the following
link:

[https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-
visitors/fft/](https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/fft/)

Thank you

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