

Infection...

The immune system is the body's way of fighting infections. Cancer and its treatment can make your child's immune system very weak. A blood test called an ANC will show how weak your child's immune system is. An ANC of less than 500 means the immune system is weak. Ask your doctor or nurse what your child's ANC is. If your child gets an infection, it can make your child very sick or die. Infections can be dangerous!

How do I know if my child has an infection?

- A high fever is a sign of infection. Make sure you have a thermometer.
- **A high fever is a temperature greater than 101.5 or 100.5 that will not go away after 4 hours.**
- Take your child's temperature when your child feels warm, has the chills, does not look or act well, or when you are worried about fever.
- DO NOT take the temperature in the bottom. It can cause infection or bleeding.
- DO NOT give your child any medicine like Tylenol to make the fever go down. You need to know if the fever will get high so that you know when to call the doctor.
- If your child has a low grade fever, continue to check the fever every 30 minutes to an hour.
- Chicken pox and shingles are infections your child could get. Call immediately if your child has an itchy rash or has been exposed to chicken pox or shingles.

When to call: This is an Emergency! DO NOT wait for the clinic to open.

- Call the medical Emergency number immediately if your child's fever is **101.5 or greater.**
- Call the medical emergency number immediately if your child's fever **is greater than 100.5 for more than 4 hours.**
- The doctor will tell you what to do. A doctor will need to see your child as soon as possible. You will be instructed to come to the emergency room, the outpatient clinic or a hospital close to your home. Your child should wear a mask into the hospital and in the emergency room waiting area.
- You will receive a white card when your child is diagnosed. Show this card to the medical team at the ER. It will tell them how to best take care of your child.

