

Fever and Infection While on Chemotherapy

Fever and Infection are a
MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Take your Temperature Everyday and
When You Are Not Feeling Well

While you are on chemotherapy, you are at risk for serious infection. You can be at risk for up to 4 to 6 weeks from your last treatment. Chemotherapy makes it harder for your body to fight off infections. If you have a fever or infection it needs to be treated right away.

How Do I Know I Have An Infection?

Some symptoms and signs of an infection are:

- Fever of 38°C or higher
- Sore throat
- Shaking or chills
- Diarrhea
- Burning when you pee
- Headache or stiff neck
- If you have a catheter, and you have:
 - Redness or pain around it
 - Swelling, puss or discharge around it
- Productive cough (coughing up phlegm)

What Can I Do?

Fever and Infection are a MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Take your symptoms and signs very seriously.

Call your Nurse or Family Doctor within 24 hours if you have:

- Shaking
- Diarrhea
- Headache or stiff neck
- Redness, pain, swelling, puss, or discharge around your catheter
- Productive cough

Important: If symptoms worsen or you cannot reach your nurse or family doctor within 24 hours, **call REACT clinic.**

If the clinic is closed, go straight to your nearest Emergency Department.

Call REACT clinic at 905-813-4412 (Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm)

In the **evening** (Monday to Friday, 4:00 pm to 8:30 am), on **weekends and holidays** (24 hours), **use CareChart:**

- Call **1-877-681-3057**
- Connect over video call at www.carechart.ca
- Use the CareChart Digital Health app

Or go to the Emergency Department if you have:

- Fever of 38.3°C or higher
- Fever of 38 to 38.2°C
 - Do not take Tylenol® (acetaminophen) or Advil® (ibuprofen)
 - Wait for 1 hour. Recheck your temperature
 - If 38°C or above for 1 hour go to the nearest emergency department
- Fever of 38°C or higher and you have another symptom

At your next appointment, tell your nurse and oncologist if you had to go to the REACT Clinic or the EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT because of Fever and Infection.