



Outpatient Management of Febrile Neutropenia

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

You have developed an infection and currently also 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.

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 the following:

- You feel worse.
- You are not improving despite taking the antibiotic 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 central line (PICC or Porta Cath) if you have one.



After Discharge:

- You have been given a follow up review appointment. It is very important that this review takes place, so that we are able to monitor your progress and make changes to treatment if required.
- You have been given antibiotic tablets; please take these regularly as directed. Contact the 24-hour advice line if you have any problems in taking the tablets as directed.
- **24 Hour Advice Line Number: 07833 095 489**

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

Twitter.com/WhitHealth
Facebook.com/WhittingtonHealth

Whittington Health NHS Trust
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
Phone: 020 7272 3070
www.whittington.nhs.uk

Date published: 31/08/2021
Review date: 31/08/2023
Ref: SC/Oncol/OPMFN/01

© Whittington Health
Please recycle

