

What is neutropenia (noo-troh-PEE-nee-uh)?

Neutrophils are a special type of white blood cells important in fighting infections. **Neutropenia** describes a decrease in the number of neutrophils. This places people at risk of serious infections.

So, what is febrile neutropenia (FN)?

This is when a person gets a fever when they have neutropenia and are at risk for an infection.

How high of a temperature is a fever?

A fever is a temperature higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit for more than 1 hour, or a single temperature above 101 degrees Fahrenheit. Oral thermometers are most accurate, the armpit is also a good alternative. Never take a rectal temperature!

What do I do if I think my child has a fever or signs of an infection?

If your child has a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, immediately call the clinic or on-call doctor at (734) 936-9814. Find where your local ER is, as you will likely be instructed to take your child there.

What is low-risk febrile neutropenia (FN)?

Some children with FN are low-risk for serious complications and may be discharged early using oral antibiotics at home. The oncologists will tell you if your child has low-risk FN.

Who do I call after we are discharged?

Call the clinic cancer nurses at (734) 936-9814 during normal business hours 8am-5pm to schedule a follow up the next day.

Signs of infection:

- Fever higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit for more than 1 hour, or a single temperature higher than 101 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Chills, sweats, or shakes
- Abnormal fatigue, feeling unwell, or altered mental status
- Change in cough or new cough
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose, sniffles, or congestion
- Sore throat, mouth pain, or painful swallowing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- New or worsening belly pain
- Skin rash, redness or swelling near central line site
- Joint pain, swelling, or redness
- Pain with urination or bowel movements

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