

Emergency Management of Pediatric Immunocompromised Patients with Fever Greater than 101.5 & Potential Neutropenia

Patient Central Line Type: Hickman catheter Port-a-cath/needle size _____ PICC Med-Comp

Place this patient in an isolation or private room immediately. They should not wait in a general waiting room, or shared triage area.

This patient is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Children's MN and is at risk for fever and neutropenia that can lead to septic shock. They have been instructed to come to your emergency department for evaluation, stabilization, early initiation of antibiotics, and determination of the need to be seen at Children's Minneapolis campus.

This information is provided to families who live greater than one hour away from Children's so they may return home knowing someone close to home is available to evaluate and treat them if needed.

- 1) Access the central line – Ask for information given to the patient in an envelope labeled “Emergency Room Resources”, with instruction to bring to ER visits outside of the Children's system.
- 2) Draw blood cultures from all lumens of the central line along with a CBC and other relevant labs.

If the central line will not draw, obtain peripheral blood cultures and other relevant labs

Fax results to: 612-813-6325

For positive results, please also call: 612-813-5940

- 3) Collect additional cultures
 - Voided UA/UC
 - Chest xray and respiratory cultures if has respiratory symptoms
 - Wound cultures if has any draining or open wounds
 - Stool culture including C Diff if has persistent diarrhea
- 4) Administer antibiotic:

Start antibiotics ASAP or within the first hour of arrival.

Do not wait for blood count results before starting antibiotics.

- Cefepime 50 mg/kg IV with 2 gm maximum if available
- or
- Piperacillin/Tazobactam (Zosyn) 100 mg/kg piperacillin component IV with 4000 gm maximum of piperacillin component

- 5) Other medications and IV fluids may be given as necessary.
- 6) Contact a Children's oncology provider at 612-813-5940 to review results and plan prior to discharge.

Additional Guidelines to Prevent Infection

- Use sterile technique with all central line cares
- **Never take a rectal temperature, perform a digital rectal exam, or give rectal medications**
- Do not catheterize for urine unless the oncology provider feels this is necessary

Thank you for your assistance in the care of this patient

Children's Minnesota

Cancer and Blood Disorders Program

<http://www.childrensmn.org/services/cancer-and-blood-disorders>