



0161 446 3658

# CHRISTIE HOTLINE

NHS Foundation Trust

The Christie



## GETTING A FEVER OR DEVELOPING AN INFECTION?

Any cancer treatment can temporarily reduce your ability to fight infection. Infections develop rapidly. If you think you have an infection, you will need prompt advice.

Early infections can be treated easily.  
**Delay could be dangerous.**

### Some of the signs of an infection are:

- if you suddenly feel unwell, even with a normal temperature
- temperature is 37.5°C or above
- feeling unwell and temperature is below 36°C
- any unexplained bruising or bleeding
- diarrhoea for more than 24 hours
- unrelieved shortness of breath
- nausea or vomiting lasting more than 24 hours
- confusion / disorientation
- redness or swelling (especially around lines or drains)
- sore mouth/ulcers that stop you eating or drinking

The Christie Patient Information Service June 2018 – Review June 2021  
CHR/CT/051/06.01.03 Version 12

## I AM A CHRISTIE PATIENT

Name:.....

Hospital no: .....

Consultant: .....

My treatment: .....

If you are unwell during or following your cancer treatment, please call The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658

# URGENT ADVICE FOR CLINICIANS

The treatment is potentially myelosuppressive.

## Antibiotic guidance

- If patient is unwell and/or pyrexial with a temp of 37.5°C or above, give IV antibiotic.
- **Do not wait** for blood results; adhere to one hour to antibiotic target.

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## For all patients give:

### Antibiotic as per local policy

Please note, many chemotherapy regimens contain platinum agents. If received in the last 7 days, avoid aminoglycosides and give Meropenem 1g TDS instead.

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## Christie local policy:

Piperacillin/Tazobactam (Tazocin) 4.5g TDS. Gentamicin 5mg per kilogram OD (max dose 500mg).

If penicillin allergic (non anaphylaxis) or renal failure, give Meropenem 1g TDS.

If there is no improvement within 24 - 48 hours, contact the relevant oncologist or haematologist on 0161-446-3000

Guidelines for treatment of neutropenic sepsis are available on our website at <http://www.christie.nhs.uk/neutropenic>

**Website: [www.christie.nhs.uk](http://www.christie.nhs.uk)**