Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire NHS
Cancer Network

INFORMATION FOR ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY STAFF

This patient is receiving chemotherapy and has a high risk of developing neutropenic sepsis, which is a MEDICAL EMERGENCY

DO NOT wait for any results before initiating immediate antibiotic treatment as per local policy

Unless penicillin allergic, patients will receive Tazocin & Gentamicin/Amikacin as per policy, ASAP - **ideally within one hour of admission**

Contact the Medical Registrar on call re urgent admission and ensure the patient's Consultant is informed of this admission within 24hours

Courtesy of Surrey and Sussex Health Care NHS Trust

SIGNS OF NEUTROPENIC SEPSIS:

- A single body temperature reading of 38°C (100°F) or two body temperature measurements of 37.5°C (99°F)
  NB Paracetamol must not be used to suppress fever as this could result in a dangerous delay in starting antibiotics
- Hypotension and/or Tachycardia

In addition to:

- Blood neutrophil count of <1.0 x10^9/L
- Recent chemotherapy administration (within previous 14 days)

URGENT INVESTIGATIONS

- Allergy status
- FBC: If patient presents with severe bruising or bleeding please also take blood for Clotting, Group & Save
- CRP
- U&E: Renal function needs to be assessed and patient weight recorded prior to prescribing antibiotics
- Peripheral blood cultures & from all lumina of central line
- A full infection screen

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

You should carry this with you at all times

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Name.....

DOB.....Hospital No.....

Consultant Dr/Mr.....

at.....Trust

Chemotherapy Suite /Unit Tel. No.....

Chemotherapy Regimen.....

Out of hours contact Tel. No.....

You must attend your nearest A&E dept. IF YOU:

- **ARE** feeling unwell and/or have two temperature readings of 37.5°C (99 °F) or above
- **DEVELOP** temperature a greater than 38°C (100°F)
- **DEVELOP** shivering episodes/flu-like symptoms – do not take paracetamol without seeking advice
- **HAVE UNCONTROLLED** gum/nose bleeds or unusual bruising
- **DEVELOP** mouth ulcers that stop you eating or drinking
- **DEVELOP** diarrhoea and/or uncontrolled vomiting
- **HAVE** a central line, which has been used within the previous 2 hours, and you are now experiencing shivering

If travelling away from home, please ensure you know THE NEAREST emergency dept you may need to attend if the need arises