

Emergency guide - leukaemia and lymphoma

This is a guide to the signs and symptoms that you/your child may experience in relation to leukaemia and lymphoma that require immediate action. Please remember this is only a guide. Other signs and symptoms not mentioned here should be discussed with your local team or The Royal Marsden 24 hour telephone advice line (0208 915 6248) who can advise the recommended action.

Leukaemia and lymphoma type.....	Your child may develop the following signs and symptoms which require immediate action:	Action/contacts
	<p>Low platelets (Thrombocytopenia) leading to bruising/bleeding.</p> <p>Your child may experience: Nose bleeds, bleeding gums, bleeding/oozing from the central line site.</p>	<p>Apply pressure to the bleeding site (if applicable).</p> <p>Immediately contact your CNS locally or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line on 0208 915 6248 for immediate advice.</p>
	<p>Temperature/unwell - this is also called sepsis and can be life threatening. It can lead to cold hands and feet, mottled skin and shivering.</p> <p>Please be aware of the non-verbal signs/behavior such as sleepiness, lethargy or you may feel your child is just 'not right'. It is very important you get your child assessed early.</p>	<p>Contact your local hospital.</p> <p>If your child is or could be neutropenic (Neutrophil cells less than 0.5) treat as an emergency and follow guidelines on pages 39 -40 in the family held record folder. Or, call your local hospital or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line on 0208 915 6248 for immediate advice. Avoid giving paracetamol.</p>
	<p>Low haemoglobin (anaemia) - your child may experience tiredness, racing heart, paleness, shortness of breath.</p>	<p>Call your local hospital to arrange a blood transfusion. In rare cases that you are concerned about your child's breathing, do not hesitate to call 999 for an ambulance.</p>



	<p>Methotrexate - your child can be given this drug intravenously (through the vein), intrathecally (through the spine) and orally (by mouth).</p> <p>Common side effects include headache and nausea (feeling sick) which will be listed in the drug information leaflet given to you.</p> <p>This drug can affect the central nervous system although this is rare.</p> <p>Symptoms may include one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - drowsiness/confusion - seizures/convulsions - or you notice physical change in your child such as stiffness, weakness or slurred speech. 	<p>Contact your CNS locally or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line on 0208 915 6248 for immediate advice.</p> <p>Contact your CNS locally or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line and get your child assessed immediately.</p> <p>If you have any concern your child may be having a seizure, please call 999 immediately.</p>
	<p>Nausea/vomiting/diarrhoea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - your child may experience frequent episodes of being sick and diarrhoea. <p>If giving your child oral chemotherapy/medicines, you may have trouble with compliance if your child has been unable to tolerate taking the medicines.</p>	<p>Contact your CNS locally or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line on 0208 915 6248 for immediate advice.</p> <p>Contact your CNS locally or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line who may be able to suggest other strategies.</p>

