

## Emergency guide - solid tumours

This is a guide to the signs and symptoms that your child may experience in relation to solid tumours 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.

Clinical diagnosis - Solid tumour type	Your child may develop the following signs and symptoms which require immediate action:	Action/contacts
.....	<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/behaviour such as sleepiness, lethargy, or you may feel your child is just ‘not right’.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Or call your local hospital/The Royal Marsden advice line for immediate advice.</p> <p>Avoid giving paracetamol.</p>
	<p>High blood pressure - if your child has high blood pressure and is on antihypertensive medication at home, it is important they have their blood pressure taken as often as instructed.</p> <p>Your child may suffer with repeated headaches, dizziness and lightheadedness.</p>	<p>Contact your local hospital, your CNS or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line.</p>



	Pain control - if your child is unsettled, seems uncomfortable/ restless, is crying/screaming with pain.	Contact your CNS locally or at The Royal Marsden for immediate advice or go to your local hospital to be reviewed immediately. Avoid giving your child paracetamol unless advised to do so.
	Low platelets (Thrombocytopenia) – leading to bruising/bleeding.  Your child may experience nose bleeds, bleeding gums, bleeding/oozing from the central line site.	Apply pressure to the bleeding site (if applicable) and contact your local hospital.
	Haematuria (blood in urine) - your child may experience this due to the location of their tumour or as a side effect following certain chemotherapy treatments.	Contact your CNS or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line.
	Nausea/ vomiting/diarrhoea - your child may experience frequent episodes of being sick and diarrhoea.	Contact your CNS locally or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line for immediate advice.
	Spinal cord compression - your child may experience new onset back pain with an unknown cause, altered sensation, or weakness in any of their limbs plus loss of bladder and bowel control. These symptoms can be experienced in combination or isolation.	Action: Contact your local hospital or The Royal Marsden 24 hour advice line.

### Contact details

The Royal Marsden 24 hour telephone advice line: **0208 915 6248**

