

# URGENT ADVICE FOR DOCTORS

This is a Christie patient on chemotherapy. The treatment is potentially myelosuppressive. Take all infective episodes seriously. Treat promptly with antibiotics.

- take a full blood count immediately
- ring Christie hospital on 0161 446 3658 for advice. The on-call doctor can tell you whether the patient should be admitted locally or managed at the Christie.

## Antibiotic advice

- If patient is unwell and/or pyrexial with a temp of  $>37.5$  C for  $> 1$  hour
- or has temp of  $>38.5$  C for any length of time give antibiotics.

### For patients with solid tumours or lymphomas give:

Carbapenem – Imipenem 500mg qds or  
Meropenem 1g tds IV

Initial treatment with these antibiotics should be adequate for most patients. Please note, many chemotherapy regimens contain platinum agents, so always avoid giving aminoglycosides.

### For haematology patients:

Please contact the ALU (0161 446 3924/3925/3937) or the ALU doctor on-call (0845 226 3000) for advice.

If pyrexia lasts for more than 24-36 hours despite these measures then you need to change the antibiotics. Contact the Christie Oncologist, Haematologist or Microbiologist for advice on 0845 226 3000 or 0161 446 3658.

- For further advice contact your Microbiology department.
- Guidelines for treatment of neutropenic sepsis are available on our website at [www.christie.nhs.uk](http://www.christie.nhs.uk)

(full address - <http://www.christie.nhs.uk/neutropenic/>)

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