

RUTGERS Cancer Institu

Cancer Institute of New Jersey



RUTGERS HEALTH

Quick Reference for Symptoms:

When to Call Your Healthcare Team

Symptom	Call 911 or go to ER	Call your Healthcare Team: 732-235-2465
Alertness	 Unable to arouse or wake up Seizure Loss of movement in any part of your body 	 New or increased confusion Change in vision Falling down New numbness or tingling Dizziness Major mood changes Sleeplessness Lethargic (extreme fatigue) Tremors/shakiness
Bleeding	◆ Uncontrolled bleeding◆ Vomiting of blood	 New or increased bleeding Bloody urine Coughing up blood Nosebleeds Dark or bloody stool Use of one or more feminine pads per hour New easy bruising Little red or purple spots on the skin Bleeding from gums
Breathing	Difficulty BreathingChoking	 ◆ Trouble breathing when lying flat ◆ Wheezing ◆ New or persistent continuous cough ◆ Increased shortness of breath ◆ Sharp pain when breathing in
Constipation		 Constipation accompanied by a hard, tender, bloated abdomen Difficulty or painful passage of stools that are hard or dry No bowel movement for 3 or more days or change from baseline

Symptom	Call 911 or go to ER	Call your Healthcare Team: 732-235-2465
Diarrhea		 Constant or uncontrolled diarrhea (> 3 times/day) Diarrhea with fever or abdominal cramping Signs of dehydration (excessive thirst, heart is racing or pounding, dizziness, dark-looking urine or less urine) Stool which is bloody or dark
Fatigue	 Unable to wake up Lethargic (extreme fatigue), difficult to keep awake 	 Dizziness Too tired to get out of bed or walk to the bathroom Shortness of breath Fatigue is getting worse
Infection	 ◆ Lethargic (extreme fatigue), difficult to arouse ◆ Hematology patients on chemotherapy and post-transplant patients with a temperature 100.0 °F or above 	 ◆ Temperature 100.4 °F or above ***For Hematology Patients 100.0 °F ***For Transplant Patients 100.0 °F – call or go to ER ◆ Shaking chills even if temperature is normal ◆ Frequent urination with or without burning or discomfort ◆ New cough, sore throat, mouth/lip sores ◆ Mucus that has changed in color to green or yellow ◆ Earaches, headaches, stiff neck ◆ Toothache ◆ Cuts that won't heal or become red/swollen ◆ Unusual vaginal discharge or itching ◆ Sinus pain or pressure
IV Site Problems	Swelling and/or pain in the arm or around the neck	 New redness or swelling around area of IV or port site Pain around port-a-cath[®], Hickman[®], or PICC site or surrounding area
Mouth sores or sores in throat (mucositis or stomatitis)	◆ Cannot swallow	 White patches, sores or painful areas in or around the mouth Difficulty swallowing food or fluid Bright red blood in mouth
Nausea/ vomiting	 Vomiting blood or vomit that looks like "coffee grounds" Projectile vomiting (vomit shoots out for a distance) 	 ◆ Uncontrolled nausea or vomiting ◆ Severe stomach pain while vomiting ◆ Unable to take medicines due to nausea/vomiting

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Pain	 Severe chest pain (squeezing or pressure in chest) Headache felt as being "the worst ever" Back pain with sudden weakness in legs, arms or unable to move legs 	 New or uncontrolled pain with or without use of pain medicines Uncontrolled headaches Burning in chest or stomach New abdominal or back pain Sinus pain/eye pain or pressure New numbness/tingling in hands or feet
Rash		 New or changes in skin rash Rash with severe pain, blisters or itching Redness and/or tenderness on palms or soles of feet
Swelling	Sudden swelling in any part of the body with or without pain	◆ Increased swelling
Urination		 Trying but unable to urinate for more than 4 hours Change in color or blood in urine Painful urination Strong odor of urine Weak stream or dribbling while urinating

Any questions regarding symptoms you are experiencing, call your healthcare team at 732-235-2465 between the hours of 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Calls received after 5:00pm will be transferred to a healthcare provider.

If you are in need of immediate assistance, please call 732-235-2465 and select the option that best meets your needs.