

Complications: Fever

What should I do if my child has a fever?

A fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher in a child with sickle cell disease can be the first sign of a serious bacterial infection (See "**Prevention: Infections & Penicillin**"). **If your child has a fever 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, call your child's health care provider immediately and prepare to bring your child to the Emergency Department right away.** Fever is a medical emergency. Do not wait until the next day to call the clinic or your primary care doctor. You can also call the hematologist-on-call. Be ready to bring your child to the emergency room.

Do not give your child Tylenol, Motrin, Advil or other medicines that contain acetaminophen or ibuprofen until you have consulted with your child's health care provider:

- These medicines can bring the fever down but they do not treat the cause of the fever.
- Always check your child's temperature before giving him or her pain medication.

What other symptoms could my child have with a fever?

If your child has a fever, he/she may also have one of more of these:

- Cough
- Chills
- Cold-like symptoms (stuffy/runny nose)
- Body aches
- Feeling weak or tired
- Not wanting to eat or play
- Vomiting or diarrhea

How is a fever treated?

Fever is usually a sign of infection. **Infections caused by bacteria can be very serious.** Getting treatment for your child right away can help to save his/her life.

If your child has a fever, have him or her seen by a doctor right away. Your child will need:

- A complete physical exam
- Lab tests to check blood count
- Tests to check for germs (bacteria) in blood and urine

A child with a fever may also need to have:

- A chest x-ray to check for pneumonia
- I.V. antibiotics

If your child is less than 2 years old, pack a bag and be prepared to stay overnight at the hospital.

If your child has a fever of 101°F (38.3°C) or higher, **call your child's health care provider immediately and plan to bring your child to the Emergency Department right away.**

Fever is a medical emergency. Do not wait to call your provider - if your child has a fever, seek care and call the sickle cell nurse or doctor:

312-227-4813 (M-F 9am to 5pm)

312-227-4000 (After hours, ask for hematologist on call)



Fever is often the first symptom of an infection. Be sure you know how to take an accurate temperature.

The Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program

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