

Quick Reference for Symptoms: When to Call Your Healthcare Team

Below is a guide you can use to direct you when to call about symptoms that are new or not expected. If you have any questions about your symptoms, please call our **Symptom Support Nurse Hotline at 406-752-8672.**

SYMPTOM	Dial 911	Call Symptom Support Hotline immediately: 406-752-8672	Call Symptom Support Hotline during business hours: 406-752-8672
Change in alertness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unconscious ◆ Unable to arouse or wake up ◆ Seizure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New or increased confusion ◆ Change in level of alertness ◆ Sudden change in vision ◆ Falling down with injury ◆ Numbness, tingling or loss of movement in limbs ◆ Severe dizziness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Major mood changes ◆ Unable to sleep ◆ Lethargic ◆ Change in energy level ◆ Tremors/shakiness ◆ Not able to get around ◆ Headaches
Bleeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Uncontrolled bleeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New or increased bleeding ◆ Bloody urine ◆ Unable to stop nosebleed ◆ Bloody bowel movements ◆ Vomiting of blood ◆ One or more feminine pad per hour is used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Frequent controlled nose bleeds ◆ New easy bruising ◆ Little red or purple spots on the skin (especially hands and feet) ◆ Bleeding from gums
Change in breathing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No breathing ◆ Choking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Trouble breathing ◆ Feeling as if can't get enough air ◆ Trouble breathing when laying flat ◆ Wheezing with breaths ◆ Persistent continuous cough ◆ Coughing blood or green/yellow material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Becomes short of breath more easily with little activity ◆ New or recurrent cough

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Constipation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Constipation with hard, tender, bloated belly, and /or nausea/vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Painful or trouble passing of stools that are hard, dry, or small in volume ◆ No bowel movement for 3 or more days or change from baseline
Diarrhea		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Constant or uncontrolled diarrhea (> 10 times/day) ◆ Diarrhea more than 12 hours while on medicine to stop it ◆ Diarrhea with fever or belly cramping ◆ Stool which is bloody, burgundy or black ◆ Signs of dehydration (excessive thirst, heart palpitations, dizziness, dark-looking urine or less urine) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mild belly cramping ◆ New onset diarrhea ◆ Whole pills passed in stool ◆ Diarrhea greater than 3 times/day
Fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unable to wake up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dizziness ◆ Too tired to get out of bed or walk to the bathroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fatigue is getting worse ◆ Staying in bed all day ◆ Other symptoms occur with increased fatigue
Infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lethargic, difficult to arouse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Temperature 100.4 °F or above ◆ Shaking chills (temperature may be normal) <p>Signs/symptoms of infection such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Loose bowel movement(s) ◆ Frequent urination with or without burning or discomfort ◆ New cough, sore throat, mouth/lip sores ◆ New earaches, headaches, stiff neck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New redness or swelling on skin or at IV site ◆ Cold symptoms ◆ New abdominal or back pain ◆ Toothache ◆ Cuts that become red/swollen ◆ Unusual vaginal discharge or itching ◆ Sinus pain or pressure

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Mouth sores or sores in throat (mucositis or stomatitis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unable to breathe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Trouble breathing ◆ Cannot swallow ◆ Choking ◆ Bright red blood in mouth ◆ Pain not controlled by medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ White patches or sores appear on gums or mouth ◆ Trouble swallowing food or fluid
Nausea/vomiting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Uncontrolled, constant nausea or vomiting ◆ Blood or “coffee ground” appearing material in vomit ◆ Medicine not kept down because of vomiting ◆ Weakness or dizziness along with nausea/vomiting ◆ Severe belly pain while vomiting ◆ Projectile vomiting (vomit shoots out for a distance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nausea persists without control from anti-nausea medicine ◆ Unable to take medicine due to nausea
Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Severe chest or arm pain ◆ Severe squeezing or pressure in chest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New or uncontrolled pain ◆ Headaches not relieved with acetaminophen ◆ Chest discomfort with pounding heart ◆ Burning in chest or stomach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sores or painful areas on skin or mouth ◆ New pains not relieved with pain medicine ◆ Painful port-a-cath, Hickman, or PICC site or surrounding area ◆ Pain with infusion of medicine or fluids into port-a-cath, Hickman, or PICC
Rash		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sudden onset body rash ◆ Rash with severe pain or itching ◆ Rash with blistering or peeling of skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New or changes in skin rash ◆ Redness and/or tenderness on palms or soles of feet

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Swelling		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sudden swelling with or without pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Swollen legs, hands ◆ Swelling around port-a-cath, Hickman, or PICC
Urination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unable to urinate for more than 8 hours ◆ Blood in urine ◆ Painful urination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Strong odor of urine ◆ Change in color of urine

Please call our Symptom Support Nurse Hotline at 406-752-8672 with any **new** or unusual symptom. If you have any questions, please call.

If you are having problems during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), please call 406-752-8672 and speak to the nurse at the Cancer Center. If it is after business hours, on a holiday or weekend, please ask the operator to page the cancer doctor on call.