



Keeping our mob healthy

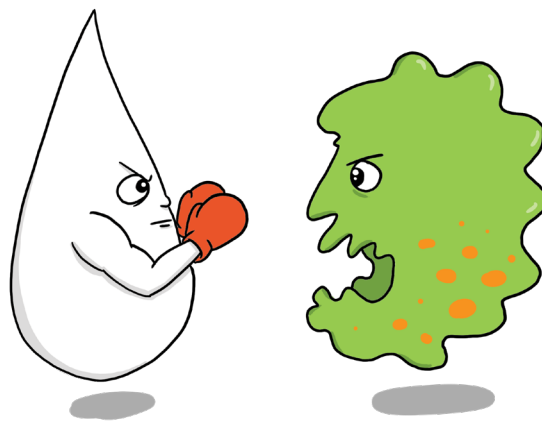
Neutropenic care (new-tro-pee-nic)

The white blood cells in our body are called neutrophils (new-tro-fills). These white cells protect our body from germs and fight infection.

Bub's with cancer will often have less white cells in their blood this is called **neutropenia (new-tro-pee-nee-ah)**.

This is because the cancer can damage the bone marrow inside the bones where new blood cells are made.

Sometimes the cancer medication (chemotherapy) and treatment (radiation, x-rays) attack the cells in the body, both the bad cancer cells and the good healthy cells like the white cells or neutrophils. Doctors count the white cells, and when there is less 0.5 bub is **neutropenic**. When bub is **neutropenic** this means bub doesn't have as many white blood cells to fight infections.



When bub has neutropenia, it is **very important** to try and keep bub well by:

Good mouth care

- It won't stop mouth sores but can help reduce the risk of infection.
- See mouth care fact sheet for ways to look after bub's mouth.

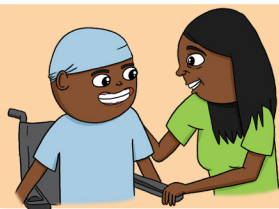


The skin around bub's **bottom** needs to be clean and dry.

- Use gentle creams and tell the doctor if bub is having difficulty pooing or hard poos.



Help bub feel good by:



Keep bub doing things they would **normally do as much as possible**. If bub is neutropenic they will need to be careful and stay away from small spaces with lots of people like buses, church, birthday parties, movies or footie games, so they don't catch any germs or bugs. If bub would like to go to a special event please yarn with your doctor.

School

- Bub should keep going unless doctor says so.
- **With your consent** the medical team can yarn with the school about how to care for bub at school.
- Yarn with your doctor or nurse about bub going to playgroup.
- School can make them feel good.



If bub is on **Ward 1A** they should **not go** to the **Fun on Four play** area.

- A lot of kids go to Fun on Four and this can put bub at risk if they have infections.

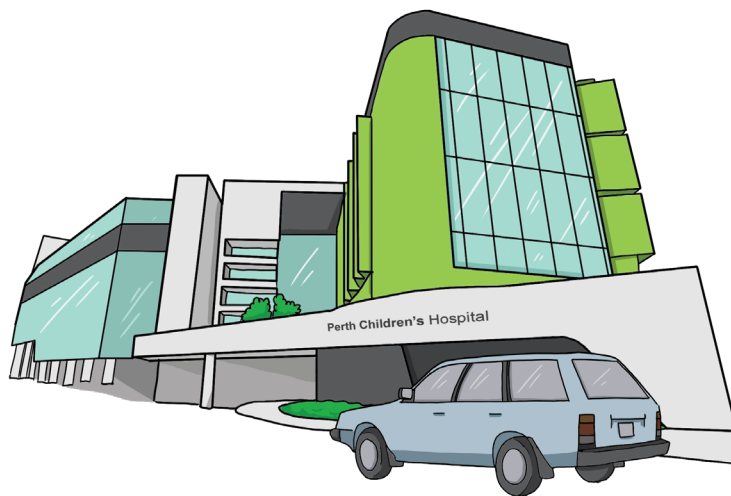
Febrile neutropenia (new-tro-pee-nee-ah)

This is when children with low white cells have a **fever**. The cancer treatment that bub is receiving may hide other signs that they are becoming unwell with an **infection**.



If bub has a fever, then this is an emergency.

- If bub has a fever over **38.0** call the Haematology Oncology Triage number on **0410 717 816**.
- Fevers are a sign bub may be unwell and may need **antibiotics**.
- This is why it is important for bub to **stay close to Perth Children's Hospital** no more than **1 hour** by car. Bub can become very unwell very quickly.



Remember a fever:

- is an **emergency**
- can be life threatening
- take bub to the hospital straight away.

If bub has a temperature or you are worried or concerned about bub, call the Haematology Oncology Triage number on **0410 717 816**.



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