

**SOUTH TEXAS CANCER INSTITUTE
AT METHODIST HOSPITAL**

“Serving Humanity to Honor God”

**VERY
IMMUNOCOMPROMISED
PATIENT**

YOUR V.I.P. CARD

At Methodist Healthcare, we value every patient and their unique healthcare needs. As a patient receiving treatment for cancer, you could develop a serious infection that we need to treat as quickly as possible. You are at highest risk when your blood counts, especially your white blood cell count, are low. Your white blood cells are the cells that help you fight infection. White blood cells are an important part of your immune system. When they are low, you are considered “immunocompromised,” which means you do not have normal levels of immune cells to fight a serious infection.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BE WATCHING FOR?

Fever of 101° F, shaking chills, bone pain or aches, pain or burning while urinating, redness or tenderness around your catheter, or just feeling “bad” are all possible signs of an infection.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT HAVE AN INFECTION?

Call your hematologist/oncologist IMMEDIATELY and let them know your symptoms. If your doctor tells you to go to the Emergency Department, ask someone to drive you.

WHAT DO I DO ONCE I GET TO THE HOSPITAL?

We created the Very Immunocompromised Patient (VIP) card to help you receive the treatment you need at Methodist Healthcare promptly once you arrive at our facility. Please write your physician's phone number on the card.

Present your VIP card to the admitting office or triage nurse. If you forgot your card, please tell the admitting office or triage nurse that you are a patient with cancer undergoing treatment and that your doctor told you to come to the hospital.

METHODIST HEALTHCARE

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www.SAHealth.com