

# How can we help immunocompromised patients better understand their fever readmission?

## Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

### F&I Readmission

Sponsored by: John P. Perentesis, MD

Faculty Advisor: Todd Timney

When: Fall 2017

#### The Opportunity

Readmitted cancer patients are immunocompromised and are at risk of being neutropenic. Despite their best efforts to prevent infections, patients are very likely to have a fever after returning home post-treatment. At the first sign of a fever, patients must contact their care team so they can be treated immediately.

#### The Challenge

We needed to make sure the patient needs to know that it is not their fault. A fever happens because the patient is immunocompromised. The video gives the patient accurate expectations about their admission to better understand their situation.

#### The Approach

The video explains what an infection is: when a germ, either a microscopic bacterial, viral, or fungal organism enters your body and multiplies, causing your body to become weakened. Immunocompromised patients are more likely to have infections. One common sign of an infection is a fever. Patients must act immediately at the first sign of a fever. The video explains what needs to be accomplished prior to discharge, and ways to reduce the risk of future infections at home.

#### The Impact

The video introduces the concept of fever readmission to the patient, so they can be prepared and familiar with the process before it happens. The patient is reassured that although they are trying their best to reduce their risk, fevers are a very common for immunocompromised patients, and immediate action is necessary.

- 1 **Explaining infection** helps the patient understand why a fever happens and how it affects them
- 2 **EMLA cream** should be applied right before the admission so that the patient can be treated immediately upon arrival to the clinic or ER
- 3 **Blood cultures** must be negative for 2-3 days in a row to make sure there are no infectious germs in the body
- 4 **At home**, eliminate infectious germs that can build up and enter the body through your mouth and skin
- 5 **Avoid crowded places** to reduce the exposure to germs when blood counts are low



#### Where is it now?

The video is available to view on CCHMC’s website and YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU5HHs2Llrl>

#### For more information regarding this project visit:

<http://livewellcollaborative.org/member-login/>