Potential Infusion Reaction
Patient Instructions

Any medication can cause an allergic reaction. Some chemotherapy/biotherapy drugs have a higher risk of causing an allergic type reaction. Reactions range in severity from mild to severe and can happen while the drug is being given or may be delayed and occur hours later.

You are going to receive one of the drugs that have a higher risk of causing a reaction. To decrease the risk of reaction, you will be given medication before you receive the chemotherapy/biotherapy drug. However, you may still experience a reaction and it is important that you know the signs of an allergic reaction and what to do.

Symptoms of reaction include:

**Mild Reaction**

- Itchy skin, rash or hives
- Flushing (redness) face/chest
- Fever above 100° F (may include chills)
- Abdominal cramping, nausea.
- Cough
- Achy muscles and/or joints
- Pain at the tumor site

**Moderate to Severe Reaction**

- Difficulty breathing (shortness of breath or wheezing).
- Chest pain.
- Feeling lightheaded.
- Very slow or very fast heartbeat.

**What to do if the symptoms occur:**

- If you are in the hospital or clinic, please use your call light and let your nurse know immediately.
- If you are at home and your symptoms are mild, call (650) 498-6000 and ask for the triage nurse. After 5pm and on weekends and holidays ask for the medical doctor on call. Tell the doctor the name of the chemotherapy you received and your symptoms.
- **If you are at home and your symptoms are moderate to severe, call 911 for immediate assistance.**