Fever - Child

If your 3 month old or younger baby has a rectal temperature of 100.4º F (38º C) or higher, this could be a serious infection or problem. Your caregiver may suggest a series of tests. Based upon the results of those tests, the baby may need to be hospitalized.

There may also be a serious problem, if your baby who is older than 3 months, has a rectal temperature of 102º F (38.9º C) or your child has an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine. Blood, urine and other tests (such as X-rays) may need to be done.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- **Do not bundle your child up in heavy clothing or blankets.** Use light clothing and bedding to help your child stay cool.
- **Give extra fluids** (such as water, frozen pops and oral hydration solutions) to prevent dehydration. **Your child should drink enough water and fluids to keep his/her urine clear or pale yellow.**
- Use medication to help to relieve discomfort and keep the temperature down. Only give your child over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort or fever as directed by their caregiver. **Do not give aspirin to children** because of the risk of complications.
- **Check your child's temperature if he or she feels warm to touch.** A rectal thermometer is most accurate for babies.
- If you are unable to control the fever, you can sponge or bathe your child in lukewarm water for 10 to 15 minutes. Never use cold water or alcohol to sponge a feverish child. Make sure the water feels neither warm nor cold to your touch.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your child has seizures, repeated vomiting, dehydration, spreading rash or difficulty breathing.
- Your child has repeated episodes of diarrhea.
- Your child has an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 102º F (38.9º C) or higher.
- **Your baby is 3 months old or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4º F (38º C) or higher.**
- Your child has persistent coughing.
- Your child has inconsolable crying.
- Your child has painful urination.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your child's condition.
- Will get help right away if your child is not doing well or gets worse.

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