

## How to spot the warning signs of 5FU or capecitabine severe toxicity

The following is a guide for a patient or relative of someone having 5FU or capecitabine chemotherapy, to help identify if they may be at immediate risk of severe toxicity that could be life-threatening.

The abnormal effects below are to be considered to be warning signs at any time during or immediately after treatment, but particularly if they occur soon after starting treatment.

**If you see signs of abnormal toxic effects, demand to speak to your oncologist immediately**

<b>NORMAL</b> toxic effects experienced during 5FU or capecitabine treatment	<b>ABNORMAL</b> toxic effects experienced during 5FU or capecitabine treatment
Fatigue – you may be more tired than usual but you are able to continue with daily living	<b>EXTREME</b> Fatigue – you cannot even get out of bed
Feel nauseous – Anti nausea medications are effective	Nausea and vomiting regularly occur – Anti nausea medications are <b>NOT</b> effective
Diarrhoea – up to 4 times per day	Diarrhoea – more than 4 times a day
	Mouth sores
	Unable to drink normal amounts of fluid each day (equivalent to six to eight glasses of water)
	Fever or other signs of infection
	Immediate hair loss
	A marked change in cognitive behaviour – difficulty or reluctance to communicate, withdrawn and/or unaware
	<b>If any of the above are happening you may be at risk – demand to speak to your oncologist immediately</b>