

When to Call the Rheumatology Office

In general, whenever you are unsure about a symptom or your child's medicine, you should contact a health professional. Some specific situations when you should contact your rheumatology nurse or doctor are:

- If your child is on steroids, methotrexate, other immunosuppressive drugs, or biologics, and **has never had, and is exposed to chicken pox**, call right away. Your child may need a special shot or special antibiotic.
- **If your child is on steroids, methotrexate, or other immunosuppressive drugs and breaks out with chicken pox or shingles.**
- If your child is on anti-inflammatory medicine such as Naprosyn, Tolectin, Relafen, Voltaren, Clinoril, etc., and develops **persistent stomach aches**, vomits blood, has black tarry stools, or has blood in or mixed with their bowel movements.
- If your child develops **black tarry stools**.
- If your child develops an increase in joint swelling and pain and has limited motion or is unable to use the joint.
- If your child develops a **high fever** associated with an increase in swelling and pain in any joint
- If your child develops persistent fever
- If your child's **general condition gets worse** such that she/he has difficulty getting around.
- If your child develops a rash or hives.
- If your child develops any significant or **persistent chest pain**, especially if it occurs with shortness of breath, fainting, or turning blue around the mouth or in the hands.
- If your child develops hoarseness.
- If your child develops **vomiting** that does not improve within 24 hours.
- If your child's skin or eyes start to look yellow (jaundiced) or any unusual bruises appear on the skin. Sometimes this can be a side effect of medications.
- If your child is depressed, begins to do poorly at school, or quits playing or interacting with friends, then call the nurse to discuss this.
- If your child has significant behavioral changes.

