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FEVER

Some general facts about fever

- Fever is a body's way of fighting infection. It is a sign of illness, not a disease.
- Not all fevers need to be treated, and a fever will not harm your child.
- A fever, in general terms, is a temperature of 100.4 or higher.

How can I treat my child's fever?

- Make sure that you check your child's temperature with a thermometer before deciding to treat a fever.
- Give acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin / Advil) for your child's fever according to the directions on the box or from your doctor. Make sure you know whether you are using INFANT or CHILDREN's fever medicine.
- Do not give acetaminophen to a baby under 3 months old without calling your doctor first, and do not give more than 5 doses in 24 hours.
- Do not give ibuprofen to a baby under 6 months old without calling your doctor first, and do not give more than 4 doses in 24 hours.
- Do not alternate acetaminophen and ibuprofen to treat fever unless specifically instructed by your doctor.
- DO NOT GIVE ASPIRIN to your child.
- Avoid over-bundling your child.

Call our office if:

- Your child is under 3 months old and has a temperature of 100.4 or higher.
- Your child appears much less active, or is irritable or difficult to console.
- Your child appears to be having any trouble breathing.
- Your child appears dehydrated (no tears when crying, less urine output, dry lips).
- Your child has other symptoms, such as a rash, earache, sore throat, abdominal pains, or pain with urinating.
- Your child's fever has lasted 3 or more days.
- Your child is vomiting.
- Your child has a history of urinary infections or any chronic medical condition.

For any urgent or emergent medical concerns, please call 911 or go immediately to the nearest emergency department.