

After the Shots...

What to do if your child has discomfort

Your child may need extra love and care after getting immunized. Many of the shots that protect children from serious diseases can also cause discomfort for a while. Here are answers to questions many parents have about the fussiness, fever, and pain their children may experience after they have been immunized. If you don't find the answer to your questions, call our office.

My child's arm (or leg) is swollen, hot, and red. What should I do?

- A clean, cool washcloth may be applied over the sore area as needed for comfort.
- If there is increasing redness or tenderness after 24 hours, call the clinic.

I think my child has a fever. What should I do?

Check your child's temperature to find out if there is a fever. The most accurate way to do this is by taking a rectal temperature. (Be sure to use a lubricant, such as petroleum jelly, when doing so. Insert it until the entire bulb is just inside the anus.) If your child's fever is 101⁰F or higher by rectum, you need to call the clinic.

Here are some things you can do to reduce fever:

- Give your child plenty to drink.
- Clothe your child lightly. Do *not* cover or wrap your child tightly!
- Sponge your child in a few inches of lukewarm (not cold!) bath water.

My child seems really sick. Should I make an appointment?

If you are worried AT ALL about how your child looks or feels, please call.