🚨 Go to the Emergency Room immediately

These symptoms can be life-threatening or need urgent care:

Signs of infection or sepsis

- Fever **≥ 100.4°F (38°C)** (especially if on chemo) with one of the following:
- Chills, shaking, or sweating
- Confusion or extreme weakness
  👉 Risk: Sepsis

Breathing or heart problems

- Severe trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
  👉 Could indicate Pulmonary embolism or heart issues

Bleeding or clotting emergencies

- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Vomiting blood or blood in stool/urine
- Severe headaches (possible brain bleed)

Neurological symptoms

- Sudden confusion, difficulty speaking
- Severe headache, vision changes
- Weakness on one side
  👉 Possible Stroke

Severe dehydration or inability to keep fluids down

- Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- No urination for 8+ hours

Allergic or infusion reactions

- Swelling of face/lips/tongue
- Hives with breathing difficulty

Severe pain: Sudden, intense, uncontrolled pain anywhere

📞 Call your oncologist same day or within 24 hours

These are concerning but usually can be managed without ER:

Mild to moderate fever or infection signs

- Fever **of 100.4°F** or higher
- Sore throat, cough, or mild urinary symptoms

Treatment side effects

- Nausea/vomiting uncontrolled with meds
- diarrhea not relieved with Imodium or constipation not relieved with laxatives
- Mouth sores not improving with baking soda/salt rinse

Skin and wound issues

- New rash
- Redness or tenderness at port/IV site

Pain that is new but manageable

- Increasing discomfort not relieved by usual meds

Swelling or possible blood clots (non-emergency)

- Arm or leg swelling without severe pain or breathing issues

Medication concerns

- Questions about missed doses or interactions

Changes in eating

- Reduced appetite for several days

🧠 **Practical rule of thumb**

- Life-threatening or rapidly worsening? → ER
- New or concerning but stable? → Call oncology

Please reserve questions related to cosmetic concerns, lifestyle changes, long term survivorship and complimentary therapies until your next office visit.