

## 9. NEUTROPENIA

### 9.1 SCOPE

The normal neutrophil range is lower for those of Black, Black British, Caribbean or African ancestry.

**Common causes include:**

- Infection
- Most commonly this is seen in viral infections e.g. EBV, but can be seen in infections of any kind
- HIV testing should be offered for any unexplained neutropenia
- Drug induced - E.g. Antimicrobials, immunosuppressants, chemotherapy, anti-convulsants, antipsychotics. Please consult the BNF.
- Autoimmune Disease and Chronic Inflammatory Disease
- Nutritional deficiency - E.g. folate, B12, anorexia
- Bone marrow pathology

### 9.2 ASSESSMENT

In a well patient, isolated neutropenia should prompt assessment for the above causes and a repeat

- Mild-moderate neutropenia ( $>1 \times 10^9/l$ ) in 4-6 weeks with a blood film
- Severe ( $\leq 1 \times 10^9/l$ ) in 1-2 weeks with a blood film

Febrile neutropenia (neutrophils  $<1.0 \times 10^9/l$ ) is a medical emergency and requires urgent MEDICAL admission

### 9.3 MANAGEMENT

