Everyone gets sick.

But how often is too often?
Learn to spot the warning signs of Primary Immunodeficiency.
The Immune System
We all need it to stay healthy. But what happens when it doesn’t work properly? A healthy immune system helps your body fight off infections, germs, bacteria and viruses. These invaders, called pathogens, are destroyed by the body’s primary defense, the immune system.

But some people are born with an immune system that doesn’t work as it should. This could be due to Primary Immunodeficiency (PID), which can cause a person to be sick more often than others.

Primary Immunodeficiency — it’s more common than you think
PID affects as many as 10 million people worldwide. But because awareness remains low, it often goes undiagnosed and untreated.

Primary Immunodeficiencies are a group of more than 150 disorders of the immune system with varying degrees of severity. They occur when one or more essential parts of the immune system do not work correctly, and in many cases they are passed down genetically.

People with PID have difficulties protecting themselves from pathogens, causing frequent repeated infections and other problems that are hard to cure. Infections may appear to be common illnesses such as sinus and ear infections, pneumonia, fever, common colds and bronchitis.

Diagnosis makes all the difference
Most of us are familiar with infections. It could be as simple as a cold or cough, or even something more serious like pneumonia. Usually, most of us recover quickly. But for others, the infections are not only recurring — they’re also more severe.

Failure to diagnose PID can be both painful and devastating. It can also lead to frustrating lifestyle changes and a lifetime of serious illness, including permanent organ damage. The sooner you can identify the symptoms, the sooner you can prevent these risks by finding the treatment that’s right for you.
10 Warning signs of PID
If you or someone you know is affected by two or more of the following warning signs, speak to a physician about the possible presence of an underlying Primary Immunodeficiency.

1. Four or more new ear infections within 1 year.
2. Two or more serious sinus infections within 1 year.
3. Two or more months on antibiotics with little effect.
4. Recurrent, deep skin or organ abscesses.
5. Persistent thrush in mouth or fungal infection on skin.
6. Need for intravenous antibiotics to clear infections.

These warning signs were developed by the Jeffrey Modell Foundation Medical Advisory Board.
Terminology Glossary

Abscess A swollen area within body tissue, containing an accumulation of pus.

Bacteria Single-celled microorganisms lacking organized structure and nucleus.

Bronchitis Inflammation of the mucous membrane in the airways to the lungs.

Genetic Of or relating to genes or heredity.

Pathogens Bacteria (microorganisms) that causes disease.

Pneumonia Lung inflammation caused by bacterial or viral infection.

Septicemia Blood poisoning, especially those caused by bacteria or their toxins.

Viruses An infective agent that is able to multiply only within the living cells of a host.
Help is never far away

Thanks to new therapies and advances in medicine, there are now more options than ever for patients with PID. Replacement therapy using antibodies known as immunoglobulins, for example, can prevent future infections by treating the underlying disease, rather than temporarily curing symptoms as with antibiotics. Together, proper diagnosis and early treatment can make it possible to live, work, learn and play more normally. Infections can be controlled and reduced, and patients can often return to healthier, more active lifestyles.

But nobody knows your child better than you. You know whether your child has one or more of the warning signs, and you – together with your physician – can help find the right expertise. Through the Jeffrey Modell Centers Network, you can find more ways to detect, diagnose and treat Primary Immunodeficiency by contacting an expert physician or immunologist in your area.

To get help, or for more information, please contact your local doctor, primary care centre or the JMF Center directly in (country xxx):
Address: Phone: Web:

info4pi.org
ABOUT THE JEFFREY MODELL FOUNDATION
The Jeffrey Modell Foundation is a U.S.-based global nonprofit organisation established in 1987 by Vicki and Fred Modell in memory of their son, Jeffrey, who died at the age of 15 after struggling with a Primary Immunodeficiency.

The Foundation is dedicated to basic and clinical research, physician education, patient support, public awareness and advocacy.

JEFFREY MODELL CENTERS NETWORK
The Jeffrey Modell Centers Network reaches all corners of the globe. It is comprised of Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic and Research Centers and a referral network of hundreds of Expert Immunologists at academic teaching hospitals and medical schools.

For more information on PID, visit the Jeffrey Modell Foundation website at: info4pi.org