Skilled Nursing Facility Care Pathway
Symptoms of Sepsis and Septic Shock

Symptoms or Signs of Sepsis
• Infection (confirmed or suspected)
• Fever or feeling very cold
• Rapid heart rate
• Rapid breathing
• Shortness of breath
• Confusion or difficulty to arouse
• Complaints of extreme pain
• Pale/discolored skin

Take Vital Signs and draw WBC
• Temperature
• BP, pulse
• Respirations

Sepsis = Infection+ life-threatening organ dysfunction
Septic Shock = Sepsis + persistent hypotension despite fluid resuscitation and need for vasopressors to keep MAP >65mmhg.

Vital Sign Criteria (any met?)
• Infection (confirmed or suspected)
• Two or more of the following:
  • Altered Mental Status (Glasgow Coma Scale<13)
  • Hypotension (systolic<100mmHg)
  • Tachypnea (RR>22)
  • Decreased urine output or darkened/concentrated urine

NO
Consider Contacting MD/NP/PA for orders (for further evaluation and management)
• WBC
• Blood cultures X2 (prior to antibiotics)
• Lactate
• Coagulation tests (a PTT/INR)
• Serum Creatinine
• Platelet count
• Bilirubin
• Urinalysis
• Urine culture
• Blood glucose

Evaluate Results
• WBC >12,000 or <4,000 or >10% bands
• Lactate >2mm/L
• Platelets <100,000
• Serum Creatinine >2.0mg/dL
• aPTT 60secs or INR >1.5
• Bilirubin >2mg/dL
• Hyperglycemia (not diabetic)

YES
Monitor Response
• Sepsis criteria met
• Worsening condition

YES
Notify MD/NP/PA
Review resident’s wishes for life-sustaining treatment

Adapted from: Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock- Singer et al. JAMA 2016;315(8) 801-810
This resource is not all inclusive and may not apply to all patients/residents and/or situations. It is intended for educational purposes only and as guidance to support investigation for performance improvement—not as a substitute for advice from a physician or healthcare provider.

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