



## SEPSIS

**Effective:** January 1, 2025  
**Replaces:** January 1, 2021

### 1. Patient Care Goals

- 1.1. Maintain blood pressure greater than 90mmHg systolic to ensure adequate perfusion
- 1.2. Administer fluids to address tachycardia, hypotension, or signs of circulatory compromise
- 1.3. Identification of Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS) Criteria
  - 1.3.1. Temperature less than 96°F or greater than 100.4°F
  - 1.3.2. Heart rate greater than 90bpm
  - 1.3.3. Respiratory rate greater than 20bpm
  - 1.3.4. ETCO2 less than 25mmHg
- 1.4. Advanced notification to hospital of suspected sepsis patient if two or more SIRS criteria are met

### 2. BLS Treatment

- 2.1. Routine Medical Care – Adult **(700-S04)**
  - 2.1.1. **Oxygen** – titrate as appropriate
- 2.2. Place patient in recovery position or position of comfort
- 2.3. Treat associated signs and symptoms of shock as appropriate **(700-A10)**

### 3. ALS Treatment

- 3.1. **Vascular Access (IV)**, TKO, large bore when possible
  - 3.1.1. A second **IV** or **Saline Lock** may be established if appropriate
- 3.2. **Rapid Fluid Resuscitation**, up to 1L, in 250 mL increments to maintain systolic blood pressure of 90mmHg. Reassess vital signs between fluid boluses. Titrate fluids once a systolic pressure of 90mmHg is achieved
  - 3.2.1. If unable to achieve target systolic blood pressure after fluid bolus and signs/symptoms of shock are present, administer **Dopamine, 2-20mcg/kg/min** titrated to maintain systolic pressure greater than 90mmHg
- 3.3. If fever (>100.4°F) present, **intravenous acetaminophen 1000mg** (for adult patients weighing 50kg or more) **IV Piggyback or IV Drip** may be administered, delivered over fifteen (15) minutes

### 4. Pertinent Assessment Findings

- 4.1. Signs of infection can include:
  - 4.1.1. Lungs – Cough, dyspnea, chest pain, sputum production
  - 4.1.2. Genitourinary – Dysuria, discharge, abdominal/flank pain
  - 4.1.3. Skin/soft tissue – Rashes, erythema, broken skin/decubitus ulcers, joint pain
  - 4.1.4. CNS – Headaches, convulsions, photophobia, neck pain
  - 4.1.5. Gastrointestinal – Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice

### 5. Key Documentation Elements

- 5.1. Assessment findings indicative of infection
- 5.2. Abnormal vital sign findings
- 5.3. Response to medication/procedures