

SEVERE SEPSIS SCREENING PROTOCOL

Utilize this tool as soon as you suspect the patient is developing infection or sepsis.

Reevaluate patient 12 & 24 hours post initiation. Stop screening if severe sepsis orders started.

Initiation date/time/initials _____ / _____ / _____
 12 hour date/time/initials _____ / _____ / _____ 24 hour date/time/initials _____ / _____ / _____

Step 1 Are any two signs & symptoms of infection both present and new to the patient?

Initials 12h 24h Hyperthermia > 101 F (38.3 C)	Initials 12h 24h Acutely altered mental status
Initials 12h 24h Hypothermia < 96.8 F (36 C)	Initials 12h 24h Leukocytosis (WBC count >12 x 10 ³)
Initials 12h 24h Tachycardia > 100 beats / minute	Initials 12h 24h Leukopenia (WBC count < 4 x 10 ³)
Initials 12h 24h Hyperglycemia in the absence of diabetes (plasma glucose > 120mg/dL)	Initials 12h 24h Tachypnea > 20 breaths / minute

YES NO STOP

Step 2 Is the patient's presentation suggestive of a new infection?

Initials 12h 24h Pneumonia, empyema	Initials 12h 24h Wound infection
Initials 12h 24h Urinary tract infection	Initials 12h 24h Bloodstream catheter infection
Initials 12h 24h Acute abdominal infection	Initials 12h 24h Implantable device infection
Initials 12h 24h Meningitis	Initials 12h 24h Endocarditis
Initials 12h 24h Skin/soft tissue infection	Initials 12h 24h Other _____
Initials 12h 24h Bone/joint infection	

YES NO STOP

Step 3 Contact physician regarding change in patient status. Notify physician that patient is being screened for severe sepsis.

Step 4 Are any of the following acute organ dysfunction criteria present at a site other than the site of infection? *Note: If the patient has bilateral pulmonary infiltrates, then evaluate lungs for organ dysfunction even if pneumonia is the primary infection.*

Initials 12h 24h SBP < 90 mmHg (if using non-invasive BP) or MAP < 65 mmHg (if using arterial BP line)
Initials 12h 24h SBP decrease > 40 mmHg from baseline
Initials 12h 24h Bilateral pulmonary infiltrates with new (or increased) O ₂ requirement to maintain SpO ₂ > 90%
Initials 12h 24h Bilateral pulmonary infiltrates with PaO ₂ / FiO ₂ ratio <300
Initials 12h 24h Creatinine > 2.0 mg/dL or urine output <0.5 mL/kg/hr for >2 consecutive hours
Initials 12h 24h Bilirubin > 2 mg/dL
Initials 12h 24h Platelet count < 100 x 10 ³
Initials 12h 24h Coagulopathy (INR > 1.5 or aPTT > 60 seconds)
Initials 12h 24h Lactic acid >2 mmol / L

YES NO STOP

Step 5 The patient meets criteria for possible SEVERE SEPSIS. Notify the physician IMMEDIATELY of these findings → Name of MD notified _____
Date: _____ Time: _____ RN signature: _____