

## Guideline for Early Recognition and Prehospital Management of the Adult Septic Patient (> 16 years old)

### INTENT

To provide guidelines that promote a consistent approach in the recognition and management of sepsis for prehospital and receiving emergency department (ED) healthcare providers participating in the Central Ohio Trauma System.

### PATIENT HISTORY SUGGESTIVE OF:

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- Known or Suspected Infection

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  - Recent Antibiotic Therapy

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  - Recent Medical/Surgical Procedure

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  - Recent Hospitalization

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  - Indwelling catheter

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  - History of Cancer

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  - Patient resident of Extended Care Facility (ECF)/rehabilitation facility

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### PRE-HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT

#### Patient Monitoring

- Vital signs, including temperature, pulse oximetry, and capnography
- Obtain serum glucose
- Apply cardiac monitor
- Transfer patient flat (if tolerated)

#### Therapeutic Intervention

- Establish patient airway/intubate, if necessary
- Administer 100% O<sub>2</sub> at 15 liters (L) per minute by non-rebreather mask (NRB)
- Initiate at least one large bore intravenous (IV) of 0.9 Normal Saline (NS), and preferably two large bore, if time allows, without delaying transport
- Administer rapid infusion of NS fluid boluses:
- 1 L NS via rapid IV bolus
- Monitor for rales and dyspnea. If either occurs, stop fluid bolus and maintain IV at KVO.
- If systolic blood pressure remains <110mmHg, infuse another 1 L NS via rapid IV bolus
- Notify receiving hospital of Sepsis Alert (if applicable)

## SEPSIS ALERT CRITERIA

The purpose of a **Sepsis Alert** is to provide pre-arrival ED notification to facilitate rapid assessment and treatment of a suspected severe septic patient.

A **Sepsis Alert** will be instituted for patients meeting the following **THREE** criteria:

**1. Suspected infection**

**2. Two or more of the following:**

- **Temperature > 38° C (100.4° F) OR < 36° C (96.8° F)**
- **Respiratory Rate > 20 breaths/min**
- **Heart Rate > 90 beats/min**

**3. ETCO2 ≤ 25 mmHg**



**REGIONAL EMS ADULT (> 16 YEARS)  
SEPSIS SCREENING TOOL**

EMS Agency Name		√
Patient Name		
Date/Time		
<b>PATIENT HISTORY</b>		
	*Known or Suspected Infection	
	*Recent Antibiotic Therapy	
	*Recent Medical/Surgical Procedure	
	*Recent Hospitalization	
	*Indwelling catheter	
	*History of Cancer	
	*Patient resident of LTC/rehab facility	
	If patient history is positive for any of the above, continue to "clinical criteria"	
<b>CLINICAL CRITERIA</b>		
	*HR > 90	
	*RR > 20	
	*Temperature ≥ 100.4 F or ≤ 96.8 F	
	If patient meets 2 or more clinical criteria, AND ETCO2 ≤ 25mmHG, activate sepsis alert	
<b>ED SEPSIS ALERT</b>		
	Sepsis Alert to ED	
	Time Sepsis Alert Activated _____	

### THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION

- Establish patient airway/intubate if necessary
- Administer 100% O2 at 15 liters per minute by non-re-breather mask (NRB), regardless of SpO2.
- Initiate at least one large bore IV of 0.9NS, and preferably two large bore, if time allows, without delaying transport
- Administer rapid infusion of normal saline fluid boluses, reassessing blood pressure, pulse and breath sounds with every 500 ml of fluid given to the patient. (If ↑ rales, D/C bolus and maintain IV KVO)
- Notify Receiving Hospital of Sepsis Alert (if applicable)

### PATIENT MONITORING

- Vital signs, including temperature and pulse oximetry
- Apply Cardiac Monitor
- Transfer patient flat (if tolerated)
- Breath sounds

Approved by the Prehospital Committee: 120616  
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