



Sepsis & Infection Zone Tool

Signs of Sepsis and Infection in the Nursing Home Setting

Be on the lookout for sepsis. It is a very dangerous response to an infection and can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and even death. Use this zone tool to conduct a daily assessment.

	Green Zone No sign of infection; routine monitoring of resident	Yellow Zone Could be infection; notify provider to report condition changes	Red Zone Could be sepsis; immediately notify provider or on-call provider
<i>Are there changes in the resident's heart rate or breathing?</i>	Heart rate and breathing are normal for resident.	Heart rate and breathing are slightly elevated for resident; breathing is more difficult than normal.	Heart rate and breathing are rapid.
<i>Is fever present?</i>	No fever in past 24 hours and resident is not taking any medication for a fever.	Fever is between 100°F and 101.4°F.	Fever is 101.5°F or higher.
<i>Does the resident feel cold?</i>	Resident denies feeling cold.	Resident feels "cold and can't get warm," is shivering and/or teeth are chattering.	Body temperature is below 96.8°F, and skin or fingernails are pale or blue.
<i>Has the resident's activity or energy level changed?</i>	Resident's activity and energy level are normal.	Resident reports lacking energy to do all usual activities.	Resident reports being too tired to do any usual activities.
<i>Has the resident's cognition or orientation changed?</i>	Resident's thinking and orientation are normal for resident.	Resident's normal thinking and orientation appear reduced.	Resident's normal thinking and orientation are significantly reduced.
<i>Has the resident had any changes since returning from a hospital stay, following a procedure or during treatment for an infection or wound?</i>	Resident reports feeling well; any present infections (e.g., upper or lower respiratory infection, urinary tract infection) are resolving with treatment.	Resident reports not feeling well, has a new or worsened cough, wound or IV site looks inflamed and/or urination pattern, volume, pain or characteristics have changed.	Resident reports feeling ill; present infection is worsening, wound or IV site is painful and/or urine pattern, volume or pain has worsened.
	<i>In the clear! No additional action required at this time.</i>	<i>Report any signs of an infection to charge nurse and physician.</i>	<i>Immediately report any signs of infection to physician. Say you are concerned about sepsis.</i>