



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.
	In the clear! No additional action required at this time.	Report any signs of an infection to charge nurse and physician.	Immediately report any signs of infection to physician. Say you are concerned about sepsis.