

Fever/Infection Control

History

- Age
- Duration of fever
- Severity of fever
- Past medical history
- Medications
- Immunocompromised (transplant, HIV, diabetes, cancer)
- Environmental exposure
- Recent travel to emerging infectious disease affected regions
- Time of last acetaminophen or ibuprofen

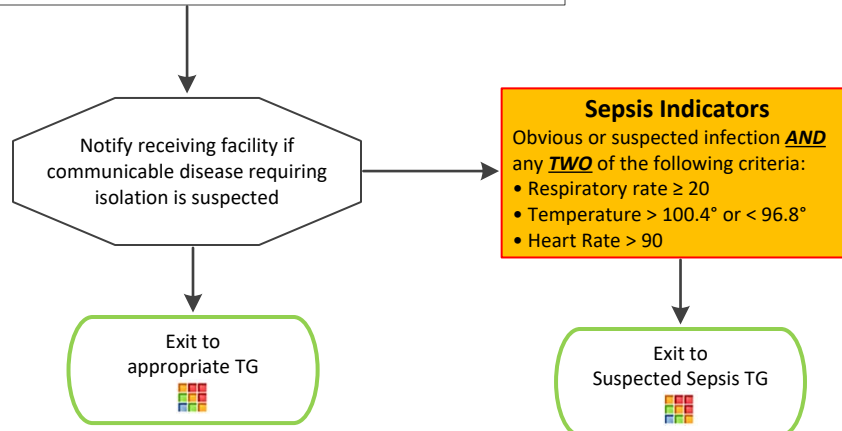
Signs and Symptoms

- Warm
 - Flushed appearance
 - Sweaty
 - Chills
- Associated symptoms (helpful to localize source)**
- Myalgia, cough, chest pain, headache, dysuria, abdominal pain, mental status changes, rash

Differential

- Infections/sepsis
- Cancer/tumors/lymphomas
- Medication or drug reaction
- Connective tissue disease
 - Arthritis
 - Vasculitis
- Hyperthyroidism
- Heat stroke
- Meningitis or other airborne disease
- Emerging infectious disease

E	Use universal, contact, droplet, and airborne precautions, <i>as indicated</i>
E	Complete a thorough and complete history of any recent travel or exposure to sick contacts; follow any/all current EMS system guidance based on this history
P	Establish IV/IO, <i>if indicated</i>



Pearls

- **UTILIZE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS FOR ALL PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED INFECTION.**
- Febrile seizures are more likely in children with a history of febrile seizures and may be caused by a rapid elevation in temperature.
- **All-hazards precautions** include standard PPE plus airborne and contact precautions. This level of precaution is utilized during the initial phases of an outbreak when the etiology of the infection is unknown or when the causative agent is found to be highly contagious (e.g. Ebola, MERS, SARS).
- **Droplet precautions** include standard PPE plus a standard surgical mask for providers who accompany patients in the back of the ambulance and a surgical mask or NRB O₂ mask for the patient. This level of precaution should be utilized when influenza, meningitis, mumps, streptococcal pharyngitis and other illnesses spread via large particle droplets are suspected. A patient with a potentially infectious rash should be treated with droplet precautions.
- **Contact precautions** include standard PPE plus utilization of a gown, change of gloves after every patient contact and strict hand washing precautions. This level of precaution is utilized when multi-drug resistant organisms (e.g. MRSA and VRE), scabies, herpes zoster (shingles), or other illnesses spread by contact are suspected.
- Rehydration with fluids increases the patient's ability to sweat and improves temperature control.

