

POLICY: 554.40  
TITLE: Sepsis

EFFECTIVE: 4/10/19  
REVIEW: 4/2024  
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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## SEPSIS

I. AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

II. PURPOSE

To serve as a patient treatment standard for EMRs, EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics within their scope of practice.

III. PROTOCOL

Sepsis is a life-threatening, systemic infection with treatment centering on early recognition, hospital notification, fluid replacement and early antibiotics.

## Sepsis

<b>Risk Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age (elderly/newborn)</li> <li>Diabetes</li> <li>Immune compromise</li> <li>Alcoholism/IV drug abuse</li> <li>Malnutrition</li> <li>Recent surgery</li> <li>Indwelling devices (Foley, IV lines)</li> <li>Renal Disease</li> </ul>	<b>Signs/Symptoms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIRS (Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome) which is <b>two or more</b> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temperature &gt;100.4F or &lt;96F</li> <li>Heart Rate &gt; 90</li> <li>Respiratory Rate &gt; 20</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Differential</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypovolemia</li> <li>Hypothermia</li> <li>Adrenal Crisis</li> <li>Thyroid Storm</li> <li>Anticholinergic Crisis</li> <li>Overdose (eg: Aspirin)</li> </ul>
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**PEARLS**

- “SIRS” means Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome.
- SIRS + Infection = SEPSIS
- Temperature is extremely useful in identifying SIRS
- Patient's with Sepsis are volume depleted, and can require significant boluses of fluid
- A numerical ETCO2 value should be documented as early as possible after first bolus is begun, and repeat measurement should be documented on hospital arrival as well.
- Finger stick lactate is not mandatory, only if proper equipment is available. One lactate value should be documented in the PCR.

