**Definitions**

Sepsis: Life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated immune response to infection. The body’s response to infection can sometimes go too far, leading to organ failure and death. (Crit Care Med 2016;44:308-318. doi:10.1097/CCM.0000000000002255)

Septic Shock: A subset of sepsis with circulatory and cellular/metabolic abnormalities. Septic shock is a medical emergency and can be deadly when not quickly recognized and treated. (Crit Care Med 2016;44:308-318. doi:10.1097/CCM.0000000000002255)

**qSOFA (Quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score)**

This tool allows for quick identification of adult patients with suspected infection who are at high risk for a poor outcome outside the intensive care unit (ICU). The presence of any two of these criteria in an adult should prompt further evaluation (JAMA 2016;315(20):2074-2082. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.0287) (Quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score)

**SOFA (Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score)**

The SOFA tool is used in the critical care setting to assess severity of organ dysfunction. Mortality rate increases as more organs fail; the greatest risk is associated with respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), 65(33), 864-869. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6533e1) (Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score)

**Clinical Presentation**


**Ongoing Hemodynamic Assessment**

For presentational purposes, the nursing assessment includes vital signs, laboratory values, and other data that may be included in patient care. The nurse should employ bedside ultrasound and other clinical assessments as indicated. (NursingCenter® 2020 UPDATE)

**Key Elements of Care**

Sepsis is a medical emergency and can be deadly when not quickly recognized and treated.