SEPSIS ALERTS

Sepsis and infection syndromes have become increasingly recognized as requiring more rapid assessment and treatment to help avoid morbidity and mortality. We have continued to educate on sepsis syndromes and will continue to alert hospitals from field of identified severe sepsis patients.

POLICY

1. All patients who have been identified as having or potentially having severe sepsis syndrome shall be called into the receiving facility as “sepsis alerts”
2. Severe sepsis will be defined as requiring three things:
   a. Positive SIRS Criteria
   b. Identified source of infection
   c. Hypotension or evidence of end organ dysfunction
3. Sepsis alerts do NOT have a specific destination.
4. Sepsis alerts shall be charted in the PCR using check boxes similar to STEMI, Stroke, and Trauma alerts.

PROCEDURE

1. Patients who meet the criteria for “severe sepsis” as defined above shall be treated with IV fluids according to the Medical Shock/Sepsis protocol.
2. Hypotension shall be defined as a systolic blood pressure < 90 at any time during patient encounter, NOT just non-responsive to fluids.
3. Once identified, the provider should alert the receiving facility as soon as possible of patient condition:
   a. Use language of “Calling Sepsis Alert”
   b. Give lowest recorded blood pressure and current blood pressure
   c. Give presumed source of infection
   d. Give amount of IVF infused
4. Chart sepsis alert in PCR as above using appropriate documentation