SEPSIS Fact Sheet:

# **Acute Care Nursing Staff**

Use SBAR Situation-

background-assessmentrecommendation method of communication for clinical report to physicians



Use **Teach Back** for sepsis

discharge instruction – use video/visual resources

Say "SEPSIS" Call it what it is so more patients survive

## **ENHANCING SEPSIS SURVIVORSHIP**

Sepsis survivors are at risk for cognitive, functional and medical disabilities

- Encourage early mobility in hospital
- Ensure medication and dosage reconciliation at time of discharge
- Educate patient and family about signs of sepsis, expectations for recovery and postsepsis syndrome
- Listen to the patient

## EMPHASIZE INFECTION PREVENTION

- ✓ Hand hygiene✓ Wound care





- ✓ Vaccinations for flu, pneumonia, others
- Take medications as prescribed

## SIGNS OF SEPSIS\*

Shivering

Extreme pain

Pale skin

Sleepiness

'<u>I</u> feel like I might die'

Shortness of breath

#### **ENSURING A SUCCESSFUL DISCHARGE**

- Provide self-monitoring tool for home
  - Review symptom inventory
  - ✓ Take body temperature
  - ✓ Review who to call and where to go for help
- Provide an action plan
  - ✓ Include number a patient should call
  - ✓ Identify where a patient should go for help
  - ✓ For severe symptoms, call 911
- Prior to discharge, schedule follow-up appointment (within 7 days of discharge)
- Discuss nutrition and hydration give examples
- Call discharged sepsis patients within 48 hours to confirm:
  - ✓ Patient has medication/antibiotics
  - ✓ Patient has follow-up appointment
  - ✓ Home service has visited, if applicable
  - ✓ If there are changes in health or mood

**LEARN MORE:** <u>www.cdc.gov/sepsis</u> **\*Sepsis Alliance** at <u>www.sepsis.org</u>

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## **SEPSIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY**



