Suspected Infection

**Step 1: Initial Sepsis Screen**
- Oral temp < 36°C (96.8°F) or ≥ 38°C (100.4°F)
- Heart rate > 110 beats per minute
- Respiratory rate > 24 breaths per minute
- WBCs > 15,000/mm³ or < 4,000/mm³ or > 10% bands

Positive if any 2 of 4 criteria met

**Action:** If suspected infection, start source-directed antibiotics and 1-2 L of IV fluids; increase monitoring and surveillance. Move to confirmation evaluation.

- **NOTE:** A MAP < 65 mm Hg (sustained for 15 minutes after 30mL/kg fluid load) in setting of infection directly defines SEPTIC SHOCK

**Step 2: Confirmation of Sepsis Evaluation**
- Respiratory: New need for mechanical ventilation or PaO₂/FiO₂ < 300
- Coagulation: Platelets < 100 x 10⁹/L or INR > 1.5 or PTT > 60 secs
- Liver: Bilirubin > 2 mg/dL
- Cardiovascular: SBP < 85 mm Hg or MAP < 65 mm Hg or > 40 mm Hg decrease in SBP (after fluids)
- Renal: Creatinine ≥ 1.2 mg/dL or doubling of creatinine or urine output < 0.5 mL/kg/hr x 2 hrs
- Mental Status: Agitated, confused, or unresponsive
- Lactic Acid: > 2 mmol/L in absence of labor

Confirmed if 1 or more criteria met

- **All Criteria NEGATIVE**
  - **Action:** This group remains at high risk for sepsis and requires close supervision and reevaluation.

- **≥ 1 Criterion POSITIVE defines SEPSIS**
  - **Action:** Start source-directed antibiotics, broad spectrum antibiotics if source unclear; increase fluids to 30 mL/kg within 3 hours; collect blood cultures if not already obtained, maintain close surveillance, e.g. RRT, and repeat lactate. Escalate care as needed.

- **MAP < 65 mm Hg (sustained for 15 minutes) defines SEPTIC SHOCK**

  - **Action:** As above for Sepsis, admit to ICU. If hypotension persists after 30 mL/kg fluid load, assess hemodynamic status and consider vasopressor use.

- **Elevated lactate ONLY in Labor**
  - **Action:** At a minimum, maintain close surveillance; consider additional fluids to reduce lactic acid level; repeat lactate. (See Discussion of the Role of Lactic Acid in the Peripartum Period In the toolkit for more detail.)