



A Union of Professionals

**AFT Nurses and
Health Professionals** 

**KNOW
SEPSIS**

The Mayo Clinic provides the following criteria to both identify and differentiate among the three levels of sepsis:

Sepsis

To be diagnosed with sepsis, a patient must exhibit at least two of the following symptoms:

- Body temperature above 101 F (38.3 C) or below 96.8 F (36 C)
- Heart rate higher than 90 beats a minute
- Respiratory rate higher than 20 breaths a minute
- Probable or confirmed infection

Severe Sepsis

The diagnosis will be upgraded to severe sepsis if the patient also exhibits at least one of the following signs and symptoms, which indicate an organ may be failing:

- Significantly decreased urine output
- Abrupt change in mental status
- Decrease in platelet count
- Difficulty breathing
- Abnormal heart pumping function
- Abdominal pain

Septic Shock

To be diagnosed with septic shock, the patient must have the signs and symptoms of severe sepsis—plus extremely low blood pressure that doesn't adequately respond to simple fluid replacement.