

MDS Alert

Clip and Save: Evaluate Infection Assessment

Find out if your approach needs debugging.

Does your facility complete a comprehensive assessment for residents found to have signs/symptoms of the following common infections upon screening?

- Pneumonia
- Other respiratory infections, including tuberculosis
- Infected wounds, including decubitus ulcers (pressure/bed sores)
- Recurrent lung aspiration
- Urinary tract, bladder infections
- Septicemia
- Viral hepatitis
- Fever (undefined)

Does your facility's process for comprehensive infection assessment include all of the elements below? On admission, readmission, or reassessment of infection, are the following elements included?

- a. Temperature, including the mode used (oral, rectal, axillary, ear probe).
- b. Presence of rash, including location and description.
- c. Presence and description of the pertinent signs of infection (e.g., for a new onset cough, the frequency and intensity of the cough, and amount and color of sputum, etc.).
- d. Date and time of onset or, after treatment is begun, the recurrence of symptoms, signs (e.g., "sudden chill at 2 pm," or "spiked a fever of 101 degrees at 0800," or, for hepatitis, "onset of jaundice last August," etc.).
- e. Pertinent history of recent infection (e.g., "hospitalized for pneumonia last year").
- f. Information concerning possible contagion (e.g., regularly plays cards with Mrs. A, Mr. B, and Miss C in the activities room).
- g. Which licensed staff performs admission assessments.

Source: Excerpted from materials developed by the Quality Improvement Organization program for the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Nursing Home Quality Initiative**. Read the entire Facility Assessment Checklists For Infection, including disclaimers, at medqic.org.