

Name of Policy: Sepsis Alert Lactate, Standing Order Policy Number: 3364-100-70-18 Approving Officer: Chief Executive Officer, Chief of Staff Responsible Agent: Chief Nursing Officer Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center		 Effective date: Original effective date: March 22, 2023	
Key words: Lactate, Sepsis, Nursing, Standing Order, Criteria and Screening			
☐	New policy proposal	☒	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
☐	Major revision of existing policy	☐	Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

Patients admitted to The University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC), or arriving via the Emergency Department, utilizing the electronic medical record cognitive computing model, shall be screened for sepsis. Patients who demonstrate, and meet criteria, for early signs of possible sepsis and have not had a lactate within the last six hours, will have an alert sent to staff, including the department staff nurse, to enter an order for a reflex lactate.

(B) Purpose of policy

To address patients that haven early signs of possible sepsis alert for any initial needed intervention

(C) Scope

Emergency Department and inpatient acute care admitted patients, non-ICU

(D) Procedure

(1) When a patient alerts for a designated sepsis score, a screening assessment is completed by nursing, reviewing risk factors

(a) When criteria are met, an OurPractice Advisory will alert to order a reflex lactate if it has not been done within the previous six hours.

(i) .

(2) When determined that a reflex lactate should be ordered, the RN will send a secure message to the responsible or on-call physician/provider, letting them know it was sent.

- (3) If a physician/provider does not want the patient to have a reflex lactate drawn, an order to cancel the lactate should be entered.

(E) References:

Epic presentation, May 2026

Liang, Z., et al. (2025). *Lactate trajectories in early survivors of sepsis*. **Shock**.
[\[pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov\]](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36888888/)

Seymour, C. W. (2026). Caring for adult patients with sepsis. *JAMA*.
<https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2026.3098>

Surviving Sepsis Campaign: International Guidelines for Management of Sepsis and Septic Shock (2026)

Approved by: Daniel Barbee Chief Executive Officer Date	Policies Superseded by This Policy: • None Initial effective date: March 22, 2023 Review/Revision Date: 6/2026
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Puneet Sindhwani, MD Chief of Staff Date Kurt Kless Chief Nursing Officer Date <i>Review/Revision Completed by: Quality Department, CNO, Office of Legal Affairs</i> <td> Next review date: </td>	Next review date:
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