

TABLE. Definitions of Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS), Sepsis, Severe Sepsis, and Septic Shock¹⁻³

Term	Criteria
SIRS	Meets 2 of of the following 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temperature $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$• Heart rate >90 beats/min• Respiratory rate >30 breaths/min or arterial CO_2 <32 mm Hg• White blood cell count $>12,000$ or <4000 cells/μL or $>10\%$ band forms
Sepsis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1991 definition: SIRS plus documented or suspected infection Current definition: Documented or suspected infection plus systemic manifestations of infection (any of the SIRS criteria count, in addition other possible manifestations include elevations of procalcitonin, C-reactive protein, hyperglycemia in those without diabetes, altered mental status)
Severe sepsis	Sepsis plus evidence of organ dysfunction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arterial hypoxemia ($\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 < 300$)• Acute oliguria (urine output <0.5 mL/kg per hour for at least 2 h despite adequate fluid resuscitation)• Increase in creatinine >0.5 mg/dL• Coagulation abnormalities ($\text{INR} > 1.5$, $\text{aPTT} > 60$ s, platelets $< 100,000/\mu\text{L}$)• Hepatic dysfunction (elevated bilirubin)• Paralytic ileus• Decreased capillary refill or skin mottling
Septic shock	Sepsis with hypotension refractory to fluid resuscitation or hyperlactatemia. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refractory hypotension persists despite resuscitation with bolus intravenous fluid of 30 mL/kg• Hyperlactatemia > 1 mmol/L

aPTT = activated partial thromboplastin time; INR = international normalized ratio.