**CARE PATH** *Symptoms of Shortness of Breath (SOB)*

**Symptoms of Shortness of Breath***
- Difficult or labored breathing that is out of proportion to the resident's level of physical activity
- New complaint of SOB

**Take Vital Signs**
- Temperature
- BP, pulse, apical HR *(if pulse irregular)*
- Respirations
- Oxygen saturation
- Finger stick glucose *(diabetics)*

**Vital Sign Criteria (any met?)**
- Temp > 100.5°F
- Apical heart rate > 100 or < 50
- Respiratory rate > 28/min or < 10/min
- BP < 90 or > 200 systolic
- Oxygen saturation < 90%
- Finger stick glucose < 70 or > 300
- Accessory muscle breathing
- Cyanosis
- New or worsening chest pains

**NO**

**Evaluate Symptoms and Signs for Immediate Notification**
- Cough with or without sputum production
- Abnormal lung sounds *(wheezing, rales, rhonchi, etc…)*
- Edema
- Change in mental status
- Inability to eat or sleep due to SOB
- New irregular pulse
- Mental Status
- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory

**NO**

**Consider Contacting MD/NP/PA for orders (for further evaluation and management)**
- Portable chest X-ray
- Blood work *(Complete Blood Count, Basic Metabolic Panel)*
- EKG *(if available)*
- Bedside spirometry *(if available)*

**YES**

**NO**

**Notify MD / NP / PA**

**YES**

**Tests Ordered**

**Evaluate Results**
- Abnormal CXR suggestive of CHF, COPD, pneumonia, atelectasis, lung CA or pleural effusion
- WBC > 14,000 or neutrophils > 90%
- Critical values in blood count or metabolic panel
- EKG shows new changes suggestive of MI or arrhythmia

**YES**

**NO**

**Monitor Response**
- Vital signs criteria met
- Worsening condition and/or immediate notification criteria met

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* Refer also to the INTERACT CHF and Lower Respiratory Infection Care Path
** Refer also to other INTERACT Care Paths as indicated by symptoms and signs