# PrimeWest Health Best Practice Guidelines For:
# Fever

## Fever Definition

- One temp >100°F (>37.8°C)
- ≥ 2 temps >99°F (>37.2°C) oral; or >99.5°F (.37.5°C) rectal
- Increase in temp of 2°F (1.1°C) over baseline

## Take Vital Signs

- Blood pressure (BP), pulse
- Respirations
- Oxygen saturation
- Finger stick glucose (people with diabetes)

## Vital Sign Criteria (Any met?)

- Temp >100.5° (>38.05°C)
- Apical heart rate >130 or <50?
- Respiratory Rate >28/min or <10/min?
- BP <90 or >210 systolic?
- Oxygen saturation <90% ?
- Finger stick glucose <70 or > 400?

**YES**

**NO**

## Further Nursing Assessment

- Mental status
- Functional status
- Respiratory
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
- Skin

## Notify MD/NP/PA Immediately

## Consider

- Lab tests as indicated
- Transfer to acute care facility as indicated

## Evaluate Symptoms and Signs

- Acute mental status change?
- Not eating or drinking?
- Acute decline in activity of daily living (ADL) abilities?
- New cough, abnormal lung sounds?
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal distention or tenderness?
- New or worsened incontinence, pain with urination, blood in urine?
- Very low urinary output?
- New skin condition (e.g., rash, redness suggesting cellulitis, signs of infection around existing pressure ulcer)?

**YES**

**NO**

## Manage in Facility – Options

- Monitor vital signs and urine output every 4 – 8 hours for 24 – 72 hours
- Consider a complete blood count
- **Do not** give acetaminophen unless necessary for comfort (it can mask a worsening fever) or until source of fever known

**NOTIFY MD/NP/PA**