PrimeWest Health Best Practice Guidelines For:
Symptoms of Lower Respiratory Infection

**Symptoms of Lower Respiratory Infection Noted**
- Labored breathing /shortness of breath
- New or worsened cough
- New or increased sputum production
- New or increased findings on lung exam (rales, wheezes)
- Chest pain with inspiration or coughing

**Take Vital Signs**
- Temperature
- Blood pressure (BP), pulse
- Respirations
- Oxygen saturation
- For those with diabetes: -Finger stick glucose

**Vital Sign Criteria**
- Temp >100.5° F (>38.05° C)?
- Apical heart rate >100?
- Respiratory rate >30/min?
- BP <90 systolic?
- Oxygen saturation <90%?
- For those with diabetes: -Finger stick glucose >400 or <70?
- OR
- Unable to eat or drink?

**Notify MD/NP/PA Immediately**

**Consider Contacting MD/NP/PA for Orders for Lab Testing**
- Portable chest X-ray
- Blood work:
  - Complete blood count
  - Basic metabolic panel

**Evaluate Lab Results and Reassess**
- Results of chest X-ray show an infiltrate or pneumonia?
- Critical values in blood count or metabolic panel?

**Manage in Facility – Options**
- Monitor vital signs every 4 – 8 hours
- Oral, IV, or subcutaneous hydration as indicated
- Oxygen supplementation as indicated
- Nebulizer treatments and/or cough suppressants as indicated
- Antibiotic therapy (check allergies)
  - Oral (7 – 14 days):
    - Levofoxacin 250-500 mg daily
    - Amoxicillin/Clavulanate 850 mg bid
    - Cefuroxime axetil 500 mg bid
  - IM (2 – 3 days, then re-evaluate):
    - Ceftriaxone 500-1000 mg IM Daily
    - Cefoxime 500 mg IM bid

**Consider Transfer to Acute Care Facility**