



# Pathophysiology Concept Map

Assigned Alteration: Infection

## Why Does it Happen? Risk Factors

Infection occurs due to microorganisms entering the body and causing disease. They are differentiated by bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites.  
The risk factors include exposure (via contact, droplets), portal of entry (mouth, cuts, eyes), and other sick individuals.

## What is Wrong? Pathophysiologic Alteration

Infection may cause inflammation in response to the pathogen. Fever is also common, as the body is attempting to fight off the internal threat.

## What Cues Should the Person Have? Expected Findings

The biggest concern regarding infection is transmission (home and community) and education. Physical exposure to various pathogens. Access to health care for sick individuals. General education to avoid an

## How is it Diagnosed? Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests

Infection is diagnosed via culture techniques, blood tests, and / or radiologic exams. Blood tests require a sample of blood and are used to create a culture plate. Treatment is tailored to the type of infection (viral, bacterial, parasitic, or fungal).

## How is it Prevented? Patient Education

Prevention of infection transmission. Communication regarding maintaining good hygiene, quarantine, and noncommunicable diseases by restriction of shared areas.

Infection has a possibility to get better or worse. Treatment after diagnosis has a possibility to get better, since the healthcare provider has what options the patient has.

Conversely, the infection could get worse, leading to complications if the patient does not receive treatment or if the treatment is unavailable.

## What Cues Should the Person Have? Expected Findings

Local signs of infection involve swelling, redness (erythema), pain / tenderness, swelling of the lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy), pus discharge.

Systemic signs include fever, high WBC count (leukocytosis), fatigue