Subclinical Mastitis
♦ Most prevalent and costly form of mastitis
♦ Animal does not exhibit typical mastitis symptoms
  - No change in udder appearance
  - No observable changes in milk
♦ Milk production will be lowered, but likely overlooked
♦ Can only be detected with individual cow somatic cell count (SCC) or microbiological culture
♦ Infected cows serve as reservoirs and can infect other cows

Clinical Mastitis
♦ Onset of symptoms may take hours to days from time of infection
♦ Symptoms may last for days to weeks
♦ Severity depends on bacteria causing infection
♦ Symptoms may include:
  - Abnormal milk
    × Flakes or clots
    × Discolored or watery
  - Abnormal udder (swelling, heat, hard or sensitive to touch) may be slight to absent
  - Drop in milk production
♦ Treatment dependent on type of bacteria, time and duration of treatment

Acute Mastitis
♦ Sudden onset of symptoms
♦ Symptoms may include:
  - Fever
  - Off-feed and off-water
  - Rapid pulse
  - Weakness
  - Udder may be red, swollen, hard and/or painful to touch
  - Grossly abnormal milk
  - Dramatic drop in milk production
♦ Can be caused by coliforms, pseudomonas and other bacteria

Chronic Mastitis
♦ Of long duration (months to years)
♦ Symptoms vary depending on phase of infection
  - Cows may remain subclinically infected indefinitely
  - Cows may alter between clinical and subclinical mastitis
♦ Multiple infections in the same quarter within a lactation or into the next lactation are a sign of chronic mastitis