

General Practice Sepsis Screening and Action Tool

Sepsis is a time critical condition. Screening, early intervention and immediate treatment saves lives. This tool should be applied to all adult patients who are not pregnant who have a suspected infection or their clinical observations are outside of normal limits

Patient groups to consider screening: those in whom you are considering antibiotic prescription or stewardship discussion, patients with "Flu", patients with gastroenteritis and the unwell patient without clear cause.

1. Might this be more than a self-limiting infection?

- Symptoms of infection (e.g. a recent history of fever)
- Acute deterioration
- Unexplained illness, especially in immunosuppressed or elderly people

N

Sepsis unlikely.
Continue usual care.

Y

2. Perform a full set of observations. Are any 2 of the following present?

Temperature > 38.3°C or < 36°C
Respiratory rate > 20 per minute
Heart rate > 90 per minute
Acute confusion, disorientation, reduced conscious level
Consider blood glucose: > 7.7 relevant in non-diabetics

N

Sepsis may be present

Evaluate whether acute referral / admission required, especially if:

- already on antibiotics
- partially treated
- no clear source of infection

If treating in the community, consider:

- planned second assessment
- brief written handover
- documenting observations
- specific safety net advice

Y

3. Is any red flag present?

Systolic B.P < 90 mmHg
Heart rate > 130 per minute
Respiratory rate > 25 per minute
Oxygen saturations < 91%
(may be appropriate to accept SpO₂ < 91% in patients with known COPD)
Responds only to voice or pain/ unresponsive
Purpuric rash

N

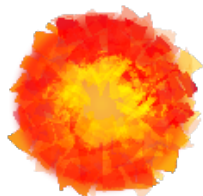
Red Flag Sepsis

This is a time critical condition, immediate action is required.

Dial 999
Arrange blue light transfer
Write a brief clear handover including observations and antibiotic allergies where present.

Y

Administer oxygen and other appropriate immediate care as available'



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