

Community Carers Sepsis Screening and Action Tool



THE UK
SEPSIS
TRUST

To be applied to all non-pregnant adults and young people 12 years and over with fever (or recent fever) symptoms

1. Are you worried your patient is sick?

- e.g.
- High or low temperature
- Sudden deterioration
- Unusually drowsy, confused or delirious

N

Low risk of sepsis. Consider other diagnoses. Use standard protocols, review routinely/ if condition changes. If in doubt call NHS 111 for advice.

Y

2. Are there any new signs of infection?

- Yes, patient has a fever, low temp or feels very cold
- Chesty cough/ breathing sounds rattly
- Urine cloudy or smelly, or painful to pass urine
- Abdomen very painful or swollen
- Skin, joints or wounds swollen, red or pus visible
- Cannula or catheter painful

N

4. Is there cause for concern?

- Relatives worried about mental state/ behaviour
- Patient not able to do what they normally can
- Patient takes steroid tablets (e.g. prednisolone)
- Has had injury or been in hospital in last 6 weeks
- Breathing harder work than normal
- Hasn't passed urine in last 12-18 hours
- Feels very cold to touch
- Skin, joints or wounds swollen, red or pus visible

Y

3. Is ONE Red Flag present?

- Patient much more confused than normal
- Patient has collapsed or can't wake patient
- Unable to feel a pulse at the wrist
- Breathing very fast (more than one breath every 2 seconds)
- Has blue lips
- Has new red or purple rash all over, or mottled skin
- Hasn't passed urine in last 18 hours
- Recent chemotherapy (within last 6 weeks)

N

At risk of sepsis

1. Contact a Healthcare professional, i.e. telemedicine, GP or the NHS via 111
2. Clearly state that the person might have sepsis
3. Ensure same day assessment by medical professional
4. May require hospital referral or assessment by GP (follow usual protocol)

Red Flag Sepsis!

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

1.If appropriate* dial 999, state patient has 'Red Flag Sepsis'

2.Inform Next of Kin

3.Get an up-to-date list of patient's medication and allergies to give to ambulance crew

*Consider individual's advanced plan