

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection causes damage to its own tissues and organs. Sepsis can lead to shock, multiple organ failure and death especially if not recognised early and treated promptly.

These questions will help to assess for sepsis in hospital inpatients.

Question 1

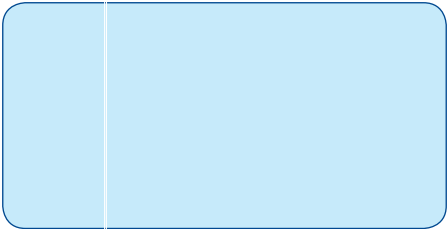
Does the patient score 3 or above on an Early Warning Score (see Early Warning Score card)? OR does the patient look sick?

Question 2

If the answer to question 1 is yes, could this be due to an infection?

Question 3

If the answer to question 2 is yes, is there any ONE red flag for sepsis?



If yes this may indicate sepsis.



Sepsis: community setting (adults only)

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection causes damage to its own tissues and organs. Sepsis can lead to shock, multiple organ failure and death especially if not recognised early and treated promptly.

These questions will help with assessment for sepsis in the community setting.

Question 1

Does the patient look sick or are they complaining of any of the following symptoms?

S LURRED SPEECH

E XTREME SHIVERING OR MUSCLE PAIN

P ASSING NO URINE (IN A DAY)

S EVERE BREATHLESSNESS

"I FEEL LIKE I MIGHT DIE"

S KIN MOTTLED OR DISCOLOURED

Sepsis: community setting (adults only)

Question 2

If the answer to question 1 is yes, is there a history or signs of an infection?

If the patient has any symptoms from question 1 and has signs of an infection, this may indicate sepsis.

What to do

- Escalate to the most senior health care professional immediately (GP or medical team – consider A&E if the patient appears severely unwell) - prompt recognition and initiation of treatment for all patients suspected of having sepsis are vital **within the hour**.

Depending on the care setting and your skill level, the following may also be undertaken:

- record observations every 30 minutes to include an Early Warning Score and escalate deterioration to a senior health care professional immediately
- screening – consider microbiological samples if infection present (urine, sputum, blood, wound)
- administer prescribed IV antibiotics within one hour of decision to treat for sepsis.