SEPSIS SCREENING TOOL COMMUNITY NURSING

01 START THIS CHART IF THE PATIENT LOOKS UNWELL OR HAS ABNORMAL PHYSIOLOGY

RISK FACTORS FOR SEPSIS INCLUDE:

- Age > 75
- Impaired immunity (e.g. diabetes, steroids, chemotherapy)
- Recent trauma / surgery / invasive procedure
- Indwelling lines / IVDU / broken skin

02 COULD THIS BE DUE TO AN INFECTION?

LIKELY SOURCE:

- Respiratory
- Urine
- Skin / joint / wound
- Indwelling device

03 ANY RED FLAG PRESENT?

- Objective evidence of new or altered mental state
- Systolic BP ≤ 90 mmHg (or drop of >40 from normal)
- Heart rate ≥ 130 per minute
- Respiratory rate ≥ 25 per minute
- Needs O₂ to keep SpO₂ ≥ 92%
- Non-blanching rash / mottled / ashen / cyanotic
- Recent chemotherapy
- Not passed urine in 18 hours (<0.5ml/kg/hr if catheterised)

04 ANY AMBER FLAG PRESENT?

IF UNDER 17 & IMMUNITY IMPAIRED TREAT AS RED FLAG SEPSIS

- Relatives concerned about mental status
- Acute deterioration in functional ability
- Immunosuppressed
- Trauma / surgery / procedure in last 8 weeks
- Respiratory rate 21-24
- Systolic BP 91-100 mmHg
- Heart rate 91-130 or new dysrhythmia
- Temperature <36°C
- Clinical signs of wound infection

COMMUNITY NURSING RED FLAG BUNDLE:

THIS IS TIME-CRITICAL – IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED:

DIAL 999 AND ARRANGE BLUE LIGHT TRANSFER

COMMUNICATION: Ensure communication of ‘Red Flag Sepsis’ to crew. Advise crew to pre-alert as ‘Red Flag Sepsis’. Where possible a written handover is recommended including observations and antibiotic allergies.

SAME DAY ASSESSMENT BY GP/TEAM LEADER

IS URGENT REFERRAL TO HOSPITAL REQUIRED?

AGREE AND DOCUMENT ONGOING MANAGEMENT PLAN (INCLUDING OBSERVATION FREQUENCY AND PLANNED SECOND REVIEW)

NO AMBER FLAGS = ROUTINE CARE / CONSIDER OTHER DIAGNOSIS

SEPSIS UNLIKELY, CONSIDER OTHER DIAGNOSIS

RED FLAG SEPSIS START BUNDLE