SEPSIS SCREENING TOOL COMMUNITY NURSING
AGE 12+

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

RISK FACTORS FOR SEPSIS INCLUDE:

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

02 COULD THIS BE DUE TO AN INFECTION?

LIKELY SOURCE:

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

☐ Brain
☐ Surgical
☐ Other

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

NO AMBER FLAGS = ROUTINE CARE / CONSIDER OTHER DIAGNOSIS

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.