SEPSIS SCREENING TOOL GENERAL PRACTICE

01 START THIS CHART IF THE CHILD LOOKS UNWELL, HAS ABNORMAL PHYSIOLOGY OR IF THERE IS PARENTAL CONCERN

RISK FACTORS FOR SEPSIS INCLUDE:
- 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
- Surgical
- Other

03 ANY RED FLAG PRESENT?

YES
- Doesn’t wake when roused / won’t stay awake
- Looks very unwell to healthcare professional
- Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry
- Severe tachypnoea (see chart)
- Severe tachycardia (see chart)
- Bradycardia (<60 bpm)
- Non-blanching rash / mottled / ashen / cyanotic
- Temperature <36°C
- If under 3 months, temperature 38°C+
- SPO₂ < 90% on air or increased O₂ requirements

04 ANY AMBER FLAG PRESENT?

NO

IF IMMUNITY IMPAIRED TREAT AS RED FLAG SEPSIS
- Not responding normally / no smile
- Reduced activity / very sleepy
- Moderate tachypnoea (see chart)
- Moderate tachycardia (see chart)
- SpO₂ < 92% or increased O₂ requirement
- Nasal flaring
- Capillary refill time ≥ 3 seconds
- Reduced urine output
- Leg pain or cold extremities
- Parental or carer concern

NO AMBER FLAGS: ROUTINE CARE AND GIVE SAFETY-NETTING ADVICE:

GP RED FLAG BUNDLE:

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.

Age (years) | Tachypnoea (breaths per minute) | Tachycardia (beats per minute)
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<1 | Severe: ≥260, Moderate: 50-59 | Severe: ≥160, Moderate: 150-159
1-2 | Severe: ≥250, Moderate: 40-49 | Severe: ≥150, Moderate: 140-149
3-4 | Severe: ≥240, Moderate: 35-39 | Severe: ≥140, Moderate: 130-139