

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

RISK FACTORS FOR SEPSIS INCLUDE (NB a normal or low temperature does not exclude sepsis):

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Age > 75 | ☐ Recent trauma / surgery / invasive procedure |
| ☐ Impaired immunity (e.g. diabetes, steroids, chemotherapy) | ☐ Indwelling lines / IVDU / broken skin |
| ☐ Frailty, communication difficulties, socioeconomic deprivation, minority ethnic group | |

02 COULD THIS BE DUE TO AN INFECTION?

LIKELY SOURCE:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| ☐ Respiratory | ☐ Urine | ☐ Skin / joint / wound | ☐ Indwelling device |
| ☐ Brain | ☐ Surgical | ☐ Other | |

NO

SEPSIS UNLIKELY, CONSIDER OTHER DIAGNOSIS

03 ANY REDS FLAG PRESENT?

- ☐ Objective evidence of new or altered mental state
- ☐ Respiratory rate ≥ 25 per minute
- ☐ New need for O₂ (40% or more) to keep SpO₂ > 92% (>88% in COPD)
- ☐ Systolic BP ≤ 90 mmHg (or drop of >40 from normal)
- ☐ Heart rate > 130 per minute
- ☐ Not passed urine in 18 hours (<0.5ml/kg/hr if catheterised)
- ☐ Non-blanching rash / mottled / ashen / cyanotic

YES

RED FLAG SEPSIS START BUNDLE

04 ANY AMBER FLAGS PRESENT?

- ☐ Family report abnormal behaviour or mental state
- ☐ Reduced functional ability
- ☐ Respiratory rate 21-24
- ☐ Systolic BP 91-100 mmHg
- ☐ Heart rate 91-130 or new dysrhythmia
- ☐ SpO₂ < 92% on air or increased O₂ requirement
- ☐ Not passed urine in 12-18 h (0.5ml/kg/hr to 1ml/kg/hr if catheterised)
- ☐ Immunocompromised
- ☐ Signs of infection including wound infection
- ☐ Temperature <36°C
- ☐ Trauma, surgery or invasive procedures in last 6 weeks

YES

USE CLINICAL JUDGEMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER PATIENT CAN BE MANAGED IN COMMUNITY SETTING. IF TREATING IN THE COMMUNITY CONSIDER:

- PLANNED SECOND ASSESSMENT +/- BLOODS
- FOLLOW UP WITH GP
- SPECIFIC SAFETY NETTING ADVICE

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

CALL 111 IF CONDITION CHANGES OR DETERIORATES.
SIGNPOST TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES AS APPROPRIATE

CALL
999 IF
ANY
OF:

Slurred speech or confusion
Extreme shivering or muscle pain
Passing no urine (in a day)
Severe breathlessness
'I feel I might die'
Skin mottled, ashen, blue or very pale

**RED FLAG BUNDLE:
DIAL 999 AND ARRANGE BLUE LIGHT TRANSFER
IF PRESCRIBER AVAILABLE & TRANSIT TIME
>1HR GIVE IV ANTIBIOTICS**

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.



UKST 2025 1.0 PAGE 1 OF 1