

Could it be sepsis? Primary Care Screening Tool

Screen all patients who have signs or symptoms of infection

Risks and red flags of sepsis for primary care clinicians

Sepsis is likely in patients with:

- Known or suspected infection
- Risks or red flags for sepsis
- Two or more of the following:
 - H** Hypotension (SBP < 100 mmHg or more than 40 mmHg below normal baseline)
 - A** Altered level of consciousness (including new confusion)
 - L** Elevated lactate > 2 mmol/L
 - T** Tachypnoea (RR > 24 or > normal aged based value)

Does the patient have any of the following risks?

- ☐ Signs or history of infection and febrile or hypothermic (including history of rigors, myalgia, chills)
- ☐ Re-presented with similar symptoms/same illness
- ☐ Worsening of recently treated infection
- ☐ Unexplained, or increased pain
- ☐ Appears sick or toxic
- ☐ Reduced level of consciousness, new confusion or altered behaviour
- ☐ Immunocompromised including those undergoing chemotherapy or with chronic illnesses
- ☐ Recent surgeries, injuries or invasive lines
- ☐ Admission to hospital for infection/sepsis within the last 30 days
- ☐ More susceptible populations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, very old or very young or those with complex medical conditions including alcohol and substance misuse
- ☐ **Paediatric:** Parental concern, children less than 3 months, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)
- ☐ **Maternal:** Any woman who has birthed, aborted or miscarried is at risk, women younger than 20 years of age at increased risk, C-section, multiple births, mastitis, following IVF procedures (or other invasive interventional procedures)

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Red flags for sepsis (if infection known or suspected)

Sepsis likely if any red flags present - initiate Sepsis Six

- Clinician/patient/caregiver concern
- Unexplained severe/strong pain
- Petechiae/non-blanching rash or mottled/ashen/cyanotic
- Elevated heart rate > 120 bpm or above normal range
- Elevated respiratory rate > 24/min or above normal range
- Hypotension < 90 mmHg systolic or drop of 40 mmHg from normal or below normal range
- Prolonged capillary refill time > 3 seconds or cold/poorly perfused limbs
- Febrile Neutropenia
- Altered mental state, new confusion or behavioural change
- Reduced urine output
- Lactate > 2.0 mmol/L (if known)
- White cell count > $12.0 \times 10^9/L$ or < $4.0 \times 10^9/L$
- Elevated RR and/or apnoea, $SpO_2 < 92\%$, moderate to severe work of breathing, hypothermia
- **Maternal:** prolonged rupture of membranes and/or pre-term birth; offensive smelling lochia, fetal tachycardia, tender abdomen; recent, operative or assisted birth
- **Paediatrics:** refer to paediatric table (below) for normal parameters

Acceptable ranges for physiological variables (paediatric)

Age	Approximate weight (kg)	Systolic BP (mmHg)	Heart Rate (Beats/minute)	Respiratory Rate (Breaths/minute)
Term	3.5	60-95	120-170	25-60
3 months	6	60-105	115-170	25-60
6 months	8	75-105	110-170	20-55
1 year	10	70-105	105-150	20-45
2 years	12	70-105	95-150	20-40
4 years	15	75-110	80-150	17-30
6 years	20	80-115	75-140	16-30
8 years	25	80-115	70-130	16-30
10 years	30	85-120	60-130	15-25
12 years	40	90-120	65-120	15-25
14 years	50	90-125	60-115	14-25
16 years	60	90-130	60-115	14-25
17+ years	65	90-135	60-115	14-25