

SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL



ADULT ED SEPSIS PATHWAY

SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_ URN: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FORENAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 GENDER: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

3 point Patient ID check completed and affixed patient label correct \_\_\_\_\_ (name & signature)

Initiate screening for patients >15 years with features of infection, possible infection or who look unwell.  
**IMPORTANT NOTE:** No unique set of diagnostic features exist for infection / sepsis. The following are prompts to assist clinical decision-making and risk assessment. Pathways / guidelines should not replace clinical judgement.

Screening Initiated: DOCTOR / NURSE (GRADE) SIGNATURE DD/MM/YY 00:00 24HR

**INFECTION RISK**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** An absence of risk factors does not exclude sepsis as cause of illness or risk of deterioration

**HIGH RISK**

- Age >65
- Rigors
- Immunocompromised e.g. Chronic disease / medications / etc
- Malignancy / malignancy treatments (e.g chemotherapy / etc)
- Recent surgery / invasive procedure
- Indwelling medical device
- IVDU
- Recent foreign travel / Unwell contacts
- Temp <36 or >38 °C

**OTHER RISKS**

- Recent antibiotics
- Heart rate >100/min
- Headache / Photophobia
- Cough / sputum / shortness of breath
- Abdominal pain and guarding with fevers / vomiting
- Hot / swollen / painful joint
- Skin wounds / cellulitis
- Dysuria / urinary frequency
- Non-mechanical fall

Infection likely **↓**  Infection unlikely

**ORGAN DYSFUNCTION**

Features of organ dysfunction? (Each scores 1 point)

**q-SOFA**

- SBP <100mmHg
- Altered mental status from baseline
- RR ≥22 breaths/min

**Other Criteria**

- SpO<sub>2</sub> <95% on ≥6L O<sub>2</sub>
- Acute kidney injury
- Urine output <30ml/hr or <0.5ml/kg/hour
- Acute elevated bilirubin
- New thrombocytopenia / purpuric rash / plt <100

**Actions:**

- Ensure a full systems examination is performed
- Request Bloods (FBP / U+E / LFT / BSL +/- Others)
- Identify likely source
  - Imaging (USS / Xrays / CT / etc)
  - Cultures (Blood culture/MSU/Wound swabs/etc)
- Consider alternative diagnosis

**If ≥2 features obtain: blood gas to assess lactate**

(Do not wait for lab results - proceed to Hypoperfusion below)

**HYPOPERFUSION**

Features of hypoperfusion? (Each scores 1 point)

- SBP <90mmHg or MAP <65 (Despite fluid bolus)
- Cool / mottled skin
- New altered mentation
- Lactate > 2
- Urine output <30ml/hr or <0.5ml/kg/hour

**Consider senior review immediately if any of these are present**

**SEPTIC SHOCK** (if ≥2 features of hypoperfusion or Q-Sofa ≥2 and Persistent hypotension requiring vasopressor to maintain MAP ≥65 + Lactate ≥2)

**SEPSIS** (if ≥2 features of organ dysfunction (Q-sofa or other criteria) or Q-Sofa ≥2 or Single feature of hypoperfusion)

**SEPSIS less likely** (if <2 features of organ dysfunction (Q-sofa or other criteria) and no hypoperfusion)

**Exit sepsis pathway** (if SEPSIS less likely)

- Investigate and treat as indicated
- Document decision/diagnosis and management plan in notes
- Re-evaluate for sepsis if condition deteriorates or new features of infection develop

**TIME ZERO** when SEPSIS is recognised DD/MM 00:00 24HR INITIALS

**ACTION**

Name of Senior medical or nursing staff contacted DD/MM 00:00 24HR SENIOR NURSING STAFF SENIOR MEDICAL STAFF

Review any Advanced Health Directives and discuss Goals of Cares as appropriate.

Address life threatening issues immediately. Perform an A B C D E assessment without delay.

PLEASE TURN OVER AND CONTINUE ONTO SEPSIS MANAGEMENT (TO BE COMPLETED BY TREATING DOCTOR)

ADULT ED SEPSIS PATHWAY

**SEPSIS MANAGEMENT**

**1. Take blood cultures - minimum of 2 sets**  
 • Collect from separate sites prior to antibiotics using aseptic technique  
 • Collect other relevant cultures - urine / sputum / wound / abscess / joint space / CSF\* / Invasive line cultures (e.g central line, etc) **(This counts as 1 set of 'blood culture')** \*(Do not perform lumbar puncture in shock or coagulopathy)

Blood cultures / other cultures taken:	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS

**2. Check lactate** (If not already)  
 • Collect venous or arterial blood gas. Repeat in 1 hour if initial lactate >2mmol/L  
 • Collect FBC / U+E / LFTs / BSL +/- Coagulation profile (If not already)  
 • Identify likely source  
 • Imaging (USS / Xrays / CT / etc)  
 • Cultures (Blood culture / MSU / Wound swabs / etc)

Initial Lactate taken:	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
Initial lactate result:	mmol/L	Repeat lactate result:	mmol/L

**3. Commence IV Antibiotics (Within 1 hour)**  
 • Check Allergies  
 • Check Antibiotic guidelines guided by likely source of infection  
 • Consider Risk of Resistant organisms (e.g. recent travel / hospitalisation / previous microbiology results)  
 • Consult microbiology / Infectious Disease Team as required  
  
 DO NOT DELAY ANTIBIOTICS IF CULTURES ARE TOO DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN

1st Antibiotic time:	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
Name of Antibiotics commenced:	1st ANTIBIOTIC		
	2nd ANTIBIOTIC		
	3rd ANTIBIOTIC		

**4. Suspected source of Sepsis**  
 • Consider need for source control (e.g incision and drainage / infected device removal, etc)  
 • Contact appropriate team for source control (e.g. General surgery, etc)  
 • Document plan in notes

SUSPECTED SOURCE

Specialty contacted:	SPECIALTY		
	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS

**5. IV fluid challenges**  
 • 10-15ml/kg IVF challenges of isotonic crystalloid  
 • Repeated up to 30ml/kg. To be titrated against clinical appropriate targets (Unless contraindications e.g. APO, etc)  
 • Reassess haemodynamic response and consider Ultrasound for fluid status assessment  
 • If unresponsive to fluids probable **SEPTIC SHOCK**

1st Fluid Bolus:	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
Total IVF given			ml

**Persistent Hypotension or features of hypoperfusion despite IVF?**

**Additional management for suspected SEPTIC SHOCK**

**6. Haemodynamic resuscitation**  
 • If inadequate perfusion persists despite appropriate IV fluid resuscitation commence **VASOPRESSORS / INOTROPES** and contact ICU / HDU for review  
 • 1st Line - **Noradrenaline** (Commence peripheral protocol when central access not available)  
 • 2nd Line - as per Senior Medical / ICU / HDU input  
  
 • Aim **MAP 65-70mmHg** or as clinically indicated

Time vasopressor / inotrope initiated:	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
Vasopressor / inotrope used:	VASOPRESSOR / INOTROPE		
Time ICU / HDU contacted	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
Total IVF prior to vasopressor / inotrope:			ml

**7. Reassess response to initial measures**  
 • Assess mental status, skin perfusion and capillary refill  
 • Maintain **airway** and **oxygenation**  
 • Assess need for **respiratory support** (NIV / IPPV)  
 • If requiring **vasopressors** to maintain adequate blood pressure:  
 • Insert **Urinary Catheter** - monitor hourly urine output  
 • Insert **arterial line**  
 • Consider need for **central venous access**

**Reassessment times:**

1st:	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
2nd:	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS

No to all

**8. Does the patient:**  
 • Require vasopressor to maintain MAP ≥ 65mmHg?  
 • Have impaired consciousness despite resuscitation?  
 • Have a respiratory rate ≥25?  
 • Require >6L/min O2 to maintain SpO2 ≥94%?  
 • Require respiratory support (NIV / IPPV)?  
 • Have persistently elevated lactate?  
 • Have other signs of critical illness or instability?

Yes to any  
 (Consider escalation of treatment and expediting transfer to critical care)

**Treatment variation** - describe modifications of bundle e.g. non-therapeutic guideline antibiotic choice, withholding or delay in treatment, patient co-morbidities precluding volume loading, ICU admission, etc

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Medical officer completing form:

DOCTOR (GRADE)	SIGNATURE
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Date and time complete	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
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**Handover Sepsis Risk** when patient transferred out of ED  
 (An emergency call can be initiated at any time if you are clinically concerned)

Date and time complete	DD/MM	00:00 24HR	INITIALS
ED Staff name	Ward Staff name		