

Pre-Hospital Sepsis Screening Tool

Age 12 + Years (Adult)

① Start this chart if the patient looks unwell or the EWS is ≥ 5

Risk Factors for Sepsis include (note: the absence of risk factors does not rule out sepsis)

Patients with risk factors are at higher risk of developing sepsis. Have a lower threshold for sepsis screening these patients

- Recent trauma/surgery/invasive procedures
- Impaired Immunity (e.g. diabetes, steroids, chemotherapy, neutropenic patient)
- Indwelling lines/IVDU/broken skin
- Rural, remote or low socioeconomic status
- Age > 75

② Is there an obvious non-infective cause for the patients presentation and observations? **NO** ↓ **YES** → **SEPSIS UNLIKELY**
Treat other cause

③ **Any RED flags?** **YES** →

- Objective evidence of new or altered mental state
- Systolic BP ≤ 90 mmHg (or >40 mmHg drop from normal)
- Heart rate ≥ 130 beats per minute
- Temperature $\leq 35^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Respiratory rate ≥ 25 per minute
- Needs O₂ to keep SpO₂ $\geq 94\%$ (88% in COPD)
- Non-blanching rash/mottled/ashen/cyanotic
- Not passed urine in 18 hrs (<0.5 mL/kg/hr if catheterised)
- Lactate ≥ 2 mmol/L (if available)
- Recent chemotherapy

NO ↓

RED FLAG SEPSIS

- 1 Pre-notify ED
- 2 Follow RED EWS escalation advice
- 3 Communicate RED flag sepsis at handover

④ **Any AMBER flags?** **YES** →

- Relatives concerned about mental status
- Acute deterioration in functional ability
- Trauma/surgery/procedure in past 8 weeks
- Immunosuppressed
- Respiratory rate 21-24 breaths per minute
- Heart rate 91-129 beats per minute or new dysrhythmia
- Systolic BP 91-100mmHg
- Temp range between 35.1°C - 36°C or ≥ 38.1
- Clinical signs of wound infection

NO ↓

AMBER FLAG SEPSIS

- 1 Follow AMBER EWS escalation advice
- 2 Communicate AMBER flag sepsis at handover

SEPSIS UNLIKELY

If no red or amber flags sepsis is unlikely. Routine care – Consider other diagnosis