

Paediatric Sepsis Pathway

Screening and Recognition tool explained

Queensland Government

PAEDIATRIC Sepsis Pathway

Facility: _____

Clinical pathways never replace clinical judgement. Use this pathway in children younger than 16 years. 16–18 year olds may use the adult or paediatric sepsis clinical pathway.

Sepsis is infection with organ dysfunction. Sepsis is a MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

ASK YOURSELF Could it be SEPSIS?

SCREEN AND RECOGNISE

Screening initiated: DD / MM / YY HH : MM (24hr)

Could it be sepsis?

☐ Signs of infection or history and evidence of fever or hypothermia

PLUS ANY of the following

☐ Looks sick or toxic ☐ Altered behaviour or reduced level of consciousness

☐ Parental, carer or clinician concern ☐ Age younger than 3 months

☐ Re-presentation with same illness ☐ Sepsis admission within the last 30 days

☐ Immunocompromised* ☐ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person

*For Oncology patients refer to 'Management of Suspected Neutropenic Sepsis Pathway (SW796)'

↓ YES

Document full set of observations in CEWT including blood pressure and AVPU

↓ THEN

Does the patient have ANY features of severe illness?

☐ Severe respiratory distress, tachypnoea or apnoea (CEWT respiratory score 3) ☐ Altered AVPU

☐ Severe tachycardia (CEWT heart rate score 3) ☐ Poor skin perfusion or cold extremities

☐ Hypotension (CEWT blood pressure score ≥2) ☐ Lactate ≥2mmol/L (if known)

Other laboratory features of severe illness (if known):

☐ Low platelets ☐ Elevated creatinine ☐ Elevated INR or bilirubin ☐ Elevated CRP

These laboratory tests are not mandatory

↓ YES

Patient is highly likely to HAVE sepsis or septic shock

- Immediate senior medical review or call Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ) 1300 799 127
- Immediate monitoring in close observation area

↓ THEN

Senior medical review attended: HH : MM (24hr)

Does the senior clinician think sepsis is likely?

☐ Yes – sepsis with shock ☐ Yes – sepsis without shock OR ☐ Unlikely sepsis

↓ YES

Sepsis has been diagnosed by a senior medical doctor

Start resuscitation and treatment for sepsis NOW (next page)

Escalate to MET, PICU, ICU or RSQ 1300 799 127

↓ NO

Do you still suspect sepsis?

↓ YES

Patient MAY have sepsis

- Targeted history and examination
- Obtain senior medical review or consider calling RSQ

↓ THEN

Senior medical review attended: HH : MM (24hr)

Does the senior clinician think sepsis is likely?

☐ Yes – sepsis with shock ☐ Yes – sepsis without shock OR ☐ Unlikely sepsis

↓ YES

Sepsis has been diagnosed by a senior medical doctor

Start resuscitation and treatment for sepsis NOW (next page)

Escalate to MET, PICU, ICU or RSQ 1300 799 127

↓ NO

Patient UNLIKELY to have sepsis now

- Reassess and escalate as indicated

↓ THEN

☐ Give Paediatric Sepsis Checklist to parent or carer (tear off back page)

Signature Log Every person documenting in this clinical pathway must supply a sample of their initials and signature below

Initials	Signature	Print name	Role

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Time that nurse fills in the screening tool (not time of triage or admission time).

Individual systems assessment

E.g. combined respiratory score of 3 or more for rate and distress = a feature of severe illness.

Any feature of severe illness met?

Immediate medical review and consider a sepsis code.

Clinician has diagnosed sepsis? Select the appropriate box and commence resuscitation steps 1-6 on page 2 **immediately.**

Use documented CEWT score to ascertain if any features of severe illness are present.

Still suspect sepsis, irrespective of nil features of severe illness?

Obtain senior medical review and conduct further assessment to ensure comprehensive examination occurs & a plan is in place for appropriate care.

Rule sepsis out early, don't rule it in when the patient is critically unwell. Deterioration in children can be subtle.

Normal vital signs and no features of severe illness? Repeat vital signs and assessment as clinically indicated. Continually re-assess your patient.

Remember, sepsis is subtle and small changes in patient condition and/or signs of deterioration may occur after initial assessment.

Re-screen and escalate care at any stage of the patients journey.

Nurse or doctor can complete this.

Scan the QR code for access to clinical guidelines, tools, and educational resources.

For more information contact the Queensland Paediatric Sepsis Program (QPS) team: paediatricsepsis@health.qld.gov.au



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