

PAEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT

Guideline for the identification and
management of sepsis for all
patients on the paediatric ward

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A. AIM

The aim of this guideline is to improve the early recognition and prompt management of inpatients with sepsis. Oncology patients should be managed as per Supportive Care Protocol (Pan London 2014).

B. INTRODUCTION

The inflammatory triad of fever, tachycardia & abnormal perfusion is very common in children with benign infections. Clinical judgement should be used when assessing a child. Not all children with suspected or proven infections have sepsis, however rapid initiation of a simple timely treatment (Paediatric Sepsis 6) following the recognition of sepsis is key to improved outcome. Sepsis should be considered as a possibility for ALL children admitted to the paediatric ward throughout a hospital admission. The Sepsis Pathway is intended for the recognition and immediate management of sepsis.

The following **definitions** are useful in defining sepsis (adapted from the international paediatric sepsis consensus conference definitions):

Infection

- Proven infection by positive culture, microscopy, or PCR test caused by any pathogen

OR

- Clinical syndrome associated with a high probability of infection, as evidenced from clinical examination, imaging, or laboratory tests

Sepsis = Infection + Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome Tachycardia, tachypnoea, core temperature $>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$, white cell count elevated or depressed for age

Severe sepsis

Sepsis plus one of the following:

Cardiovascular dysfunction OR acute respiratory distress syndrome OR

- Two or more other organ dysfunctions (respiratory, renal, neurologic, hematologic, or hepatic).

Septic shock = Severe Sepsis with cardiovascular dysfunction

C. THE RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF SEPSIS FOR INPATIENTS

The Sepsis pathway for paediatric inpatients is intended for the recognition of sepsis. It should be used at the point of any nursing, clinician or parental concerns. The Paediatric Sepsis Six is an operational tool to help the initial steps of the

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management of sepsis in a simple and timely fashion and should be initiated as appropriate.

D. REFERENCE

http://sepsistrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Paediatric-Sepsis-6-version-11_1.pdf (The Paediatric Sepsis 6 Initiative)

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