

## Sepsis Management Policy

This policy sets out the care that our practice applies to the recognition, diagnosis and early management of sepsis.

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition triggered by an infection anywhere in the body. This could include a dental or throat infection.

It can affect anyone but is most common in people who have weakened immune systems, very young, frail or have long-term conditions.

### Signs and Symptoms

Someone who is on antibiotics or who has a fever or flu-type symptom becomes very unwell, it is essential to consider whether it may be sepsis.

#### Signs & Symptoms In Adults May Include:

- Slurred speech or confusion
- Extreme shivering or muscle pain
- Not passing urine for a day
- Severe breathlessness
- Illness so bad they feel they might die
- Mottled or discoloured skin

#### Signs & Symptoms In Children May Include:

- Very fast breathing
- A fit or convulsion
- A mottled bluish or pale appearance
- A rash that does not fade when pressed
- Extreme lethargy/difficulty to wake
- Abnormally cold to the touch

These signs and symptoms may indicate that a person has sepsis.

### Action

If there is reason to suspect sepsis, reassure the patient but call 999 and request an ambulance immediately.

### Further Guidance

More detailed information is available in "Sepsis Recognition, Diagnosis and Early Management" published by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE)

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng51/chapter/Recommendations>

<https://sepsistrust.org/education/clinical-tools/>

<https://smiletogether.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Sepsis-Dentist-Campaign.pdf>

Sepsis CPD can also be undertaken and is advised via the DCME CPD platform for all staff members

### Document Control

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| Version        | Status | Date     | Author / Editor | Details of Change<br>(Brief detailed summary of all updates/changes)   |
| 0.1            | Final  | 24/07/23 | PG              | Updating post original creation in 2019- checked for guidance amendments- none to add. Only addition was further guidance links and more information on susceptibility to sepsis (3rd paragraph) |
| 0.2            | Final  | 29/09/23 | PG              | Ready to go live   |

The latest approved version of this document supersedes all other versions, upon receipt of the latest approved version all other versions should be destroyed, unless specifically stated that previous version(s) are to remain extant. If in any doubt, please contact the document Author.

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