



From confusion to consensus:
The Oxford AHSN Sepsis Pathway



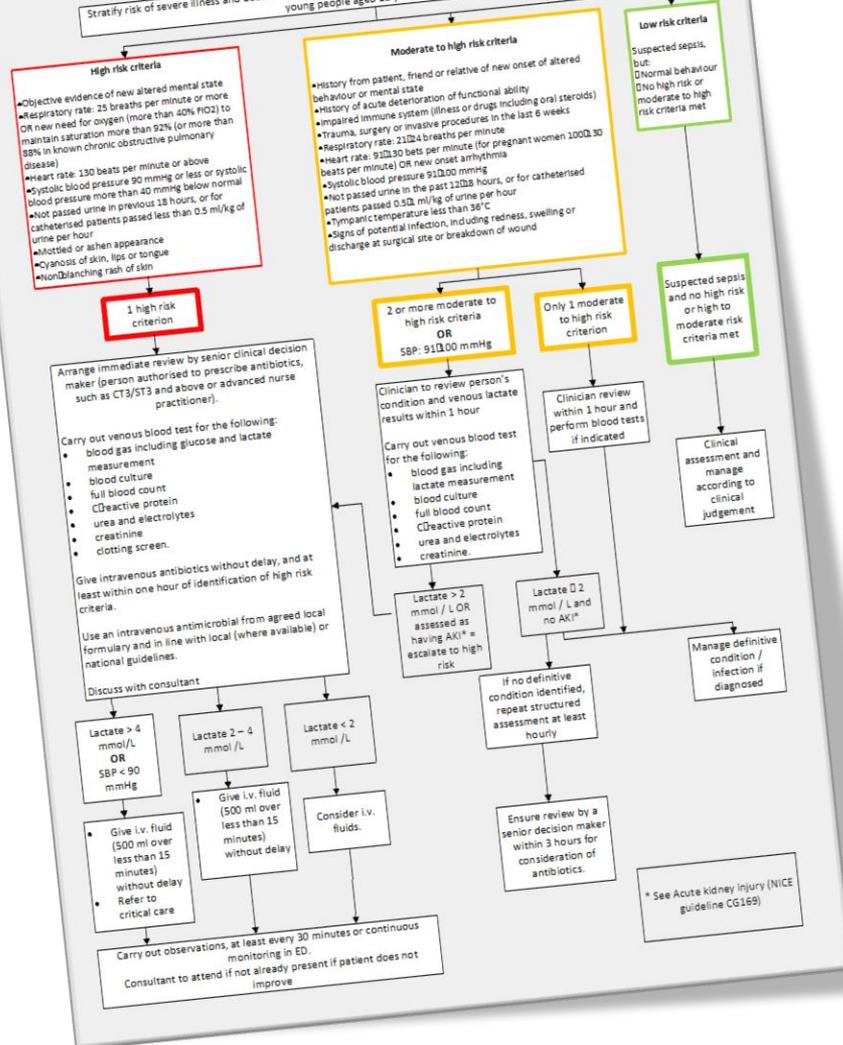
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Oxford AHSN Sepsis Group Aims

- Share experience of QI initiatives
- Share resources (e.g. for training)
- Share data (process & outcome; combine to max learning)
- Joint QI projects (\pm research)
- **Collaboratively review & apply guidelines**

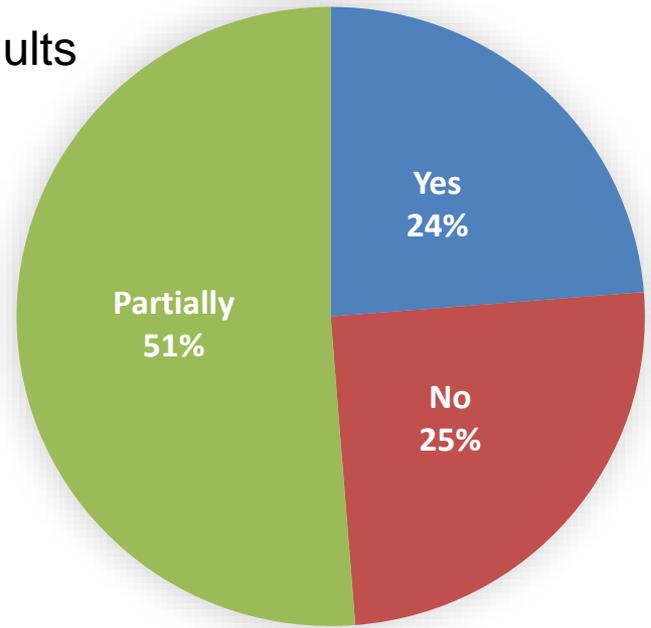
Managing suspected sepsis in adults and young people aged 18 years and over - in an acute hospital setting
Stratify risk of severe illness and death from sepsis using the risk criteria in the stratification tool for adults, children and young people aged 12 years and over



National Sepsis Stakeholder Audit

Will you be implementing NICE?

Adults

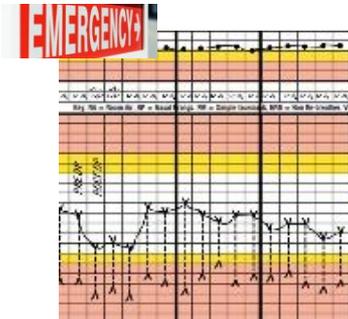


82 respondents
>50 acute Trusts

Oxford AHSN approach



- Regional approach to implementation



- Integrate into existing pathways

- Community
- Acute admissions
- Deteriorating patients (Track & Trigger / Early Warning Scores)



- Build on progress already made

- 'Red Flag' Sepsis
- Sepsis Six
- Neutropaenic Sepsis

THINK SEPSIS

Person with possible infection

- Think **'could this be sepsis?'** if they present with signs or symptoms that indicate infection, even if they do not have a high temperature.
- Be aware that people with sepsis may have non-specific, non-localising presentations (for example, feeling very unwell).
- Pay particular attention to concerns expressed by the person and family/carer.
- Take particular care in the assessment of people who might have sepsis who are unable, or their parent/carer is unable, to give a good history (for example, young children, people with English as a second language, people with communication problems)



ASSESSMENT

Assess people with suspected infection to identify:

- likely source of infection
- risk factors (see righthand box)
- Indicators of clinical concern such as abnormalities of behaviour, circulation or respiration.

Healthcare professionals performing a remote assessment of a person with suspected infection should seek to identify factors that increase risk of sepsis or indicators of clinical concern.



People more vulnerable to sepsis

- the very young (under 1 year) and older people (over 75 years) or very frail people
- recent trauma or surgery or invasive procedure (within the last 6 weeks)
- Impaired immunity due to illness or drugs (for example, people receiving steroids, chemotherapy or immunosuppressants)
- Indwelling lines / catheters / intravenous drug misusers, any breach of skin integrity (for example, any cuts, burns, blisters or skin infections).

If at risk of neutropenic sepsis - refer to secondary care

Additional risk factors for women who are pregnant or who have been pregnant, given birth, had a termination or miscarriage within the past 6 weeks -gestational diabetes, diabetes or other co-morbidities; needed invasive procedure such as caesarean section, forceps delivery, removal of retained products of conception, prolonged rupture of membranes, close contact with someone with group A streptococcal infection, have continued vaginal bleeding or an offensive vaginal discharge).

Consider RISK FACTORS & Indicators of CLINICAL CONCERN



Structured Assessment:

Observations & Early Warning Scores

SUSPECT SEPSIS

If sepsis is suspected, use a structured set of observations to assess people in a face-to-face setting. Consider using early warning scores in hospital settings. Parental or carer concern is important and should be acknowledged.

NICE High Risk \approx Red Flag Sepsis

Infection plus:

- HR > 130
- SBP < 90 (MAP < 65; \downarrow SBP > 40)
- RR > 25
- SaO₂ < 91%
- Lactate > 2

• New altered mental state

• Purpuric rash, mottled/ashen, or cyanosed

• Poor urine output (not passed urine > 18h or < 0.5ml/kg/hr)

← new
(NICE 2016)



Care Bundle

- **IV Antibiotics**
 - Pre-alert secondary care if high risk / red flag sepsis
 - Mechanism for delivery pre-hospital if >1h transfer
 - BenPen pre-hospital for suspected meningococcal disease
- **IV Fluids** - guided by need / lactate
- **Consider Oxygen** - target SaO₂ 94-98% (88-92% if risk of T2RF)
- **Blood cultures**
- **Lactate**
- **Monitoring** (urine output)
- **Source Identification & Control**
- **Escalation criteria**

**Sepsis
Six**

Oxford AHSN Regional pathway

Stratify risk of severe illness and death from sepsis using the risk criteria in the stratification tool for adults, children and young people aged 12 years and over

- High risk criteria**
- Objective evidence of new altered mental state
 - Respiratory rate: 25 breaths per minute or more OR new need for oxygen (more than 40% FIO2) to maintain saturation more than 92% (or more than 88% in known chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - Heart rate: 130 beats per minute or above
 - Systolic blood pressure 90 mmHg or less or systolic blood pressure more than 40 mmHg below normal
 - Not passed urine in previous 18 hours, or for catheterised patients passed less than 0.5 ml/kg of urine per hour
 - Mottled or ashen skin

- Medium risk to high risk criteria**
- History from patient, friend or relative of new onset of altered behaviour or mental state
 - History of acute deterioration of functional ability
 - Impaired immune system (illness or drugs including oral steroids)
 - Trauma, surgery or invasive procedures in the last 6 weeks
 - Respiratory rate: 21-24 breaths per minute
 - Heart rate: 91-130 beats per minute (for pregnant women 100-130 beats per minute) OR new onset arrhythmia
 - Systolic blood pressure 91-100 mmHg
 - Not passed urine in the past 12-18 hours, or for catheterised patients passed 0.5-1 ml/kg of urine per hour
 - Core temperature less than 36°C
 - Potential infection, including redness, swelling or pain at surgical site

- Low risk criteria**
- Suspected sepsis, but:
 - No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met

Treat Urgently for Sepsis NOW (see overleaf)

- Give i.v. fluid (500 ml over less than 15 minutes) without delay
- Refer to critical care

Carry out observations, at least every 30 minutes or continuous monitoring in ED. Consultant to attend if not already present if patient does not improve

Review by a senior decision maker within 3 hours for consideration of antibiotics.

See Acute Kidney Injury (NICE guideline CG169)

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Oxford AHSN Version

minor wording changes

simplified escalation criteria

Your logo

Sepsis Six Pathway

To be applied to all adults and young people over 12 years of age with suspected or confirmed Red Flag Sepsis



Make treatment escalation plan; review CPR status
 Inform SpR/Consultant (~~use %BAR~~) patient has Sepsis

Time zero Consultant informed? (tick) Initials

Action (complete ALL within 1 hour)	Time complete	Initials	Reason not done/variance
1. Oxygen Aim to keep saturations 94-98% (88-92% if at risk of CO ₂ retention e.g. COPD)			
2. Blood (± other) cultures At least 1x peripheral blood ± line cultures. CXR & urinalysis (± CSF, urine culture, etc) Source#control# all surgeon/radiologist?			
3. IV antibiotics According to Trust protocol Consider allergies prior to administration.			
4. IV fluids Consider 500ml stat if low BP or lactate >2mmol/l. Repeat if clinically indicated – max 30ml/kg			
5. Check serial lactates If lactate >4mmol/l consider referral to Critical Care and recheck after each ~10ml/kg challenge			Not applicable- initial lactate <2 <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Monitor urine output Consider if urinary catheter required Commence hourly fluid balance chart.			

If after delivering Sepsis Six there is:

- further clinical deterioration
- persistent systolic BP <90 mmHg
- lactate not reducing

~~or %a1ent%ri1cally%l%t%ny%me%~~

Discuss with Critical Care / Outreach team

Space available for local short antimicrobial guideline/escalation policy

Oxford AHSN Version 1

Early
Warning
Score

Your logo

Generic Sepsis Screening & Action Tool

To be applied to all non-pregnant adults and young people over 16 years with symptoms of infection, or who are clearly unwell with any abnormal observations



THE UK
SEPSIS
TRUST

Patient details (affix label):

Staff member completing form:

Date (DD/MM/YY):

Name (print):

Designation:

Signature:

Important: Is an end of life pathway in place? Yes Is escalation clinically inappropriate? Yes Initials Discontinue pathway

1. Does patient look sick?

OR \uparrow NEWS ≥ 3 [Inpatients ≥ 5 or single parameter ≥ 3]

↓ Y

2. Could this be due to an infection?

Yes, but source unclear at present

Pneumonia

Urinary Tract Infection

Abdominal pain or distension

Cellulitis/ septic arthritis/ infected wound

Device-related infection

Meningitis

Other (specify:)

↓ Y

3. ANY red flag criteria?

Objective evidence of **new altered mental state**

Heart rate > 130 per minute

Systolic B.P \leq 90 mmHg (or drop >40 from normal)

Respiratory rate \geq 25 per minute

New O₂ requirement to keep SaO₂ \geq 92% (88% in COPD)

Non-blanching rash / mottled / ashen / cyanotic

Not passed urine in last ~18 h (or U.O. <0.5 ml/kg/hr)

Lactate \geq 2 mmol/l (if available)

Severe immunosuppression, e.g. suspected neutropaenia

↓ Y

N

N

N

Low risk of sepsis if normal behaviour and no high or moderate risk criteria present. Use standard protocols, consider discharge (approved by senior decision maker) with safety netting

↑ N

4. Any amber flags (other sepsis concern)?

Other risk factor(s) for severe infection!

Acute deterioration in functional/mental state

Systolic BP 91-100 mmHg or new arrhythmia

Hypothermia

Patient, relative or health professional remains worried

¹ E.g. recent surgery; immunosuppression; oral steroids; rapidly spreading cellulitis or possible necrotizing fasciitis (Is pain out of proportion to clinical signs of cellulitis?).

[N.B. severe immunosuppression incl. neutropaenia = 'red flag']

↓ Y

Send bloods (including blood cultures, FBC, U&Es, CRP, LFTs, clotting, VBG)

Time complete Initials

--	--

Organize early clinical assessment
USE SBAR! Review results within 1 hour

--	--

Time clinician attended

--	--

AKI or Lactate ≥ 2 ?

(& infection concern persists)

YES

NO

Clinician to make antimicrobial prescribing decision within 3h.
Treat all bacterial infections promptly.

Time complete Initials

--	--

If senior clinician happy, may discharge with appropriate safety netting [ED/AMU]

--	--

Treat Urgently for Sepsis NOW (see overleaf)

This is time critical, immediate action is required.

Simplified
Amber
criteria

Oxford AHSN Version 2

Your logo

Generic Sepsis Screening & Action Tool

To be applied to all non-pregnant adults and young people over 16 years with symptoms of infection, or who are clearly unwell with any abnormal observations



THE UK
SEPSIS
TRUST

Patient details (affix label):

Staff member completing form:

Date (DD/MM/YY):

Name (print):

Designation:

Signature:

Important: Is an end of life pathway in place? Yes Is escalation clinically inappropriate? Yes Initials Discontinue pathway

1. Does patient look sick?

OR NEWS ≥ 3 [Inpatients ≥ 5 or single parameter ≥ 3]?

Tick

↓ Y

2. Could this be due to an infection?

- Yes, but source unclear at present
- Pneumonia
- Urinary Tract Infection
- Abdominal pain or distension
- Cellulitis/ septic arthritis/ infected wound
- Device-related infection
- Meningitis
- Other (specify:):

Tick

↓ Y

3. ANY red flag criteria?

- Objective evidence of new altered mental state
- Heart rate > 130 per minute
- Systolic B.P ≤ 90 mmHg (or drop >40 from normal)
- Respiratory rate ≥ 25 per minute
- New O_2 requirement to keep $SpO_2 \geq 92\%$ (88% in COPD)
- Non-blanching rash / mottled / ashen / cyanotic
- Not passed urine in last ~ 18 h (or U.O. <0.5 ml/kg/hr)
- Lactate ≥ 2 mmol/l (if available)
- Severe immunosuppression, e.g. suspected neutropaenia

Tick

↓ Y

Low risk of sepsis if normal behaviour and no high or moderate risk criteria present. Use standard protocols, consider discharge (approved by senior decision maker) with safety netting

4. Assess further for possible sepsis

- | | Time complete | Initials |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Organize early clinical assessment
USE SBAR! | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Send bloods (including blood cultures, FBC, U&Es, CRP, LFTs, clotting, VBG) | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Full clinical assessment
[Record time clinician attended] | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Consider other investigations (e.g. CXR, urinalysis \pm MSU, etc) | | |

Treat obvious bacterial infections promptly

- Monitor observations at least hourly
- Review blood results within 1 hour!
- | | Time complete | Initials |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

AKI or Lactate ≥ 2 ?
(& infection concern persists) YES NO

- | | Time complete | Initials |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Clinician to make antimicrobial prescribing decision within 3h.
Treat all bacterial infections promptly. | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| If senior clinician happy, may discharge with appropriate safety netting [ED/AMU] | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Treat Urgently for Sepsis NOW (see overleaf)

This is time critical, immediate action is required.

No amber criteria:
assess all patients

Paediatric screening tool

- **Regional Collaboration**
 - Paediatric Critical Care Network (PCCN)
 - Children’s Network
 - Oxford & Wessex AHSNs
- **Validated** against NICE guideline
 - Audit of 227 notes (PCCN)
 - Equally sensitive, more specific
- **Adopted by Oxford AHSN Sepsis group**
- **Implemented across Thames Valley**
 - including Oxford, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Frimley Health [Swindon agreed in principle]

PIER Paediatric Innovation, Education & Research Network

Thames Valley & Wessex PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE Operational Delivery Network

Paediatric Sepsis Screening Tool

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____ Patient ID sticker: _____

Recognise

Could this child have an infection? Could it be sepsis? Yes/No Value

Look for 2 of:

Temperature <36 or >38.5°C	Y/N	°C
Tachycardia (↑HR). Tachypnoea (↑RR) - use age appropriate PEWS chart	Y/N	/min
Age <1yr 1-2yrs 3-5yrs 6-11yrs 12-16yr 16+	Y/N	/min
HR >160 >150 >140 >120 >100 >90	Y/N	/min
RR >50 >50 >40 >25 >20 >20	Y/N	/min

Plus 1 of:

- Altered mental state: Sleepy, floppy, lethargic or irritable
- Mottled skin OR prolonged capillary refill time OR 'flash' capillary refill time
- Clinical concern regarding possible sepsis – seek review if significant concern even if trigger criteria not met.

Confirmed / Suspected (please circle) Recent Burn. Yes / No

Site/source: _____

BEWARE: The following are at particular RISK: Neonate / Immunocompromised / Recent Burn.

Are 2+1 criteria present? Yes / No

If YES, THINK SEPSIS: This is an emergency. Immediate Senior Clinician review (ST4+) and follow Sepsis 6 (see below). If senior decision not to proceed to sepsis 6 immediately, document overleaf.

If NO: SEPSIS UNLIKELY: Document your clinical impression overleaf.

Date: _____ Time: _____ Sign: _____

Respond

Paediatric Sepsis 6: Achieve the following within 1 hr Refer to SORT sepsis pathway (www.sort.nhs.uk)

	Time	Sign
1	Give High Flow Oxygen	
2	Record Blood Pressure and start urine collection (fresh nappy)	
3	Obtain iv/lo access	
4	Take blood cultures, blood gas (include glucose & lactate)	
5	Give Ceftriaxone 80mg/kg	
6	Fluid Resuscitation if required: 20ml/kg 0.9% Saline, reassess and repeat as required.	

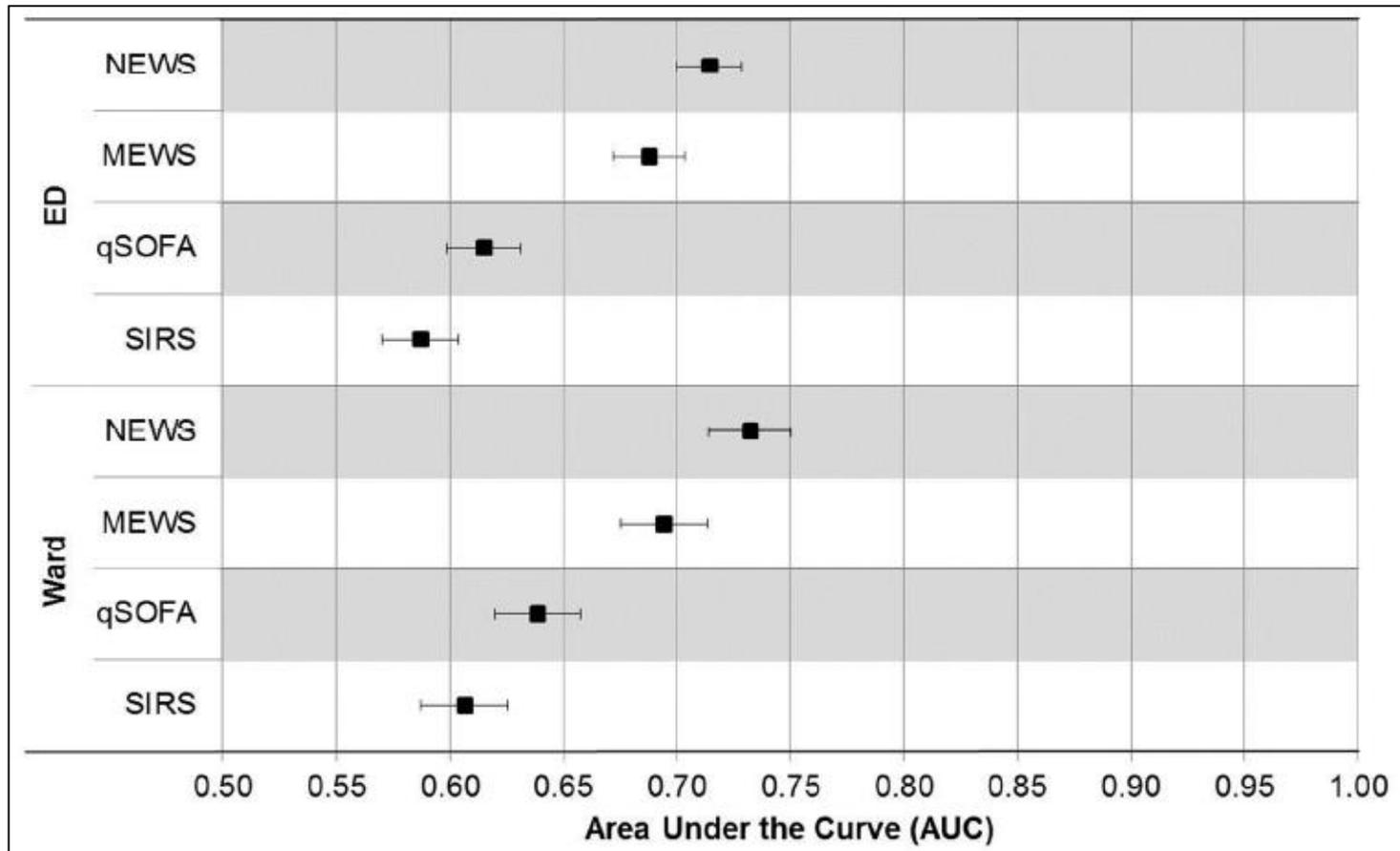
Think: if neutropaenic / immunocompromised / neonate, USE local guidance.

Reassess

	Yes/No
1	Within 1 hour of treatment
2	HR or RR still above age specific normal range or CRT >3 seconds
3	Venous (or arterial) Lactate >2
4	Signs of fluid overload hepatomegaly, desaturations, crepitations

If "YES" to ANY of above, Escalate Care to Consultant +/- ITU +/- SORT :02380 775502

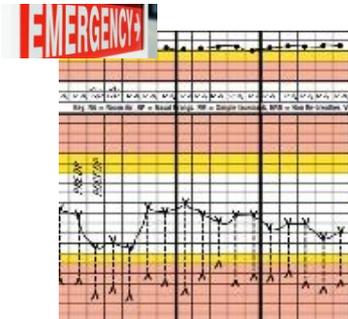
Going forwards?



Oxford AHSN approach



- Regional approach to implementation



- Integrate into existing pathways

- Community
- Acute admissions
- Deteriorating patients (Track & Trigger / Early Warning Scores)



- Build on progress already made

- 'Red Flag' Sepsis
- Sepsis Six
- Neutropaenic Sepsis