

Table 1 Risk stratification tool for adults, children and young people aged 12 years and over with suspected sepsis

Category	High risk criteria	Moderate to high risk criteria	Low risk criteria
History	Objective evidence of new altered mental state	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	Normal behaviour
Respiratory	Raised respiratory rate: 25 breaths per minute or more New need for oxygen (40% FiO ₂ or more) to maintain saturation more than 92% (or more than 88% in known chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)	Raised respiratory rate: 21–24 breaths per minute	No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met
Blood pressure	Systolic blood pressure 90 mmHg or less or systolic blood pressure more than 40 mmHg below normal	Systolic blood pressure 91–100 mmHg	No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met
Circulation and hydration	Raised heart rate: more than 130 beats per minute Not passed urine in previous 18 hours. For catheterised patients, passed less than 0.5 ml/kg of urine per hour	Raised heart rate: 91–130 beats per minute (for pregnant women 100–130 beats per minute) or new onset arrhythmia Not passed urine in the past 12–18 hours For catheterised patients, passed 0.5–1 ml/kg of urine per hour	No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met
Temperature		Tympanic temperature less than 36°C	
Skin	Mottled or ashen appearance Cyanosis of skin, lips or tongue Non-blanching rash of skin	Signs of potential infection, including redness, swelling or discharge at surgical site or breakdown of wound	No non-blanching rash

Sepsis risk stratification tool: people aged 18 years and over out of hospital

High risk criteria

- Behaviour:
 - objective evidence of altered behaviour or mental state
- Respiratory rate:
 - 25 breaths per minute or more **OR**
 - new need for 40% oxygen or more to maintain saturation more than 92% (or more than 88% in known chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Heart rate:
 - more than 130 beats per minute
- Systolic blood pressure:
 - 90 mmHg or less **OR**
 - 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 appearance
- Cyanosis of skin, lips or tongue
- Non-blanching rash of skin

ANY high risk criteria met

Send patient urgently for emergency care (setting with resuscitation facilities)

Moderate to high risk criteria

- Behaviour:
 - history from patient, friend or relative of new-onset altered behaviour or mental state
 - history of acute deterioration of functional ability
- Impaired immune system
- 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
- 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
- Tympanic temperature less than 36°C
- Signs of potential infection:
 - redness
 - swelling or discharge at surgical site
 - breakdown of wound

Can definitive condition be diagnosed and treated in an out of hospital setting?

YES

Treat definitive condition and/or provide information to safety net

NO

Low risk criteria

- Normal behaviour
- No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met

Provide information about symptoms to monitor and how to access medical care