

Sepsis: Recognise & Escalate

Nursing

Sepsis suspected from infection plus new organ dysfunction, then escalated.

Sepsis is a time-critical emergency. Suspicion is enough to escalate.

1

Suspect infection

Any source, including lines, wounds, chest, urine and abdomen.

2

Look for new dysfunction

Confusion, low BP, high or low temperature, fast rate, low output.

3

Say the word

Escalate explicitly as possible sepsis, with a time and a name.

4

Prepare the bundle

Cultures, lactate, access, fluids, oxygen, antimicrobials, output.

5

Reassess

Frequent observations; report any failure to improve promptly.

Educational reference. Screening tools, bundles and timings differ between institutions and are revised often — your local sepsis protocol