

# Sepsis in Adults Pathway

WITHIN FIRST HOUR

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- Check vital signs and document  
 - Insert Cannula  
 - Arrange initial blood tests FBC, U&E, LFT's CRP, G&S, INR, APTT, Fibrinogen using CyberLab Sepsis Order Set.  
 - Check Serum Lactate (arterial or venous).  
 - Blood cultures to be taken peripherally using aseptic non touch technique and from CVC if one insitu. **PRIOR TO ANTIBIOTIC ADMINISTRATION.**  
 - Piperacillin-tazobactam and gentamicin is first line for haematology patients. For Oncology patients gentamicin can be omitted unless signs of severe sepsis. Patients on platinum based chemotherapy (e.g. Cisplatin) or history of rash only with penicillins should receive meropenem. Refer to antibiotic guideline if known antibiotic allergies or renal failure  
**Never wait for results before starting IV antibiotics.**  
 - Prompt prescription and administration of first line antibiotic therapy or nursing staff to administer IV Antibiotic according to Patient Group Direction for patients suspected of neutropenic sepsis (this is only applicable to Haematology nursing staff, giving meropenem only)  
 - Time of antibiotics, agent and dose given must be documented in case notes  
 - If already an inpatient on the ward, IV antibiotics to be administered within 1 hour of suspected neutropenic sepsis.  
 - Time of antibiotics given must be documented in case notes  
 - Medical Review within 1 hour  
 - Consider need for barrier nursing and platelets

**Symptoms/Signs:**  
 - Unwell Patient (fever, chills, confusion)  
 - Non specific deterioration

**KEY:**

**Mission Critical Points**

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Is patient >20 wks pregnant or 6 weeks post partum?

YES → Contact Obstetric ST3 Inform Senior Midwife

NO  
 Has patient received chemotherapy or immune-suppressants within last 2 months or undergone bone marrow or stem cell transplantation?  
**SUSPECT NEUTROPENIC SEPSIS**

Follow the Hospital Severely Ill Pregnant / Postnatal Woman Pathway – Click here to view

NO  
 Are any 2 of the following present and new to the patient?  
 - Temperature <36C or >38C  
 - Heart Rate more than 90bpm  
 - Respiratory Rate more than 20/Min  
 - White cells <4 or >12  
 - Plasma Glucose >7.7 mmol in the absence of diabetes  
**Never wait for results before starting IV antibiotics.**

- Follow standard EWS protocol  
 - Re-survey screening tool if situation changes  
 - Consider source of infection without inflammatory response

YES  
 Are the clinical features suggestive of a new infection?  
 - Pneumonia - UTI - Diarrhoea  
 - Peritonitis - Meningitis - Endocarditis  
 - Cellulitis/Septic Arthritis/Fasciitis/Wound infection  
 - Catheter/other Infection (including Central Line Infection)

Look for non-infective causes (e.g. Pancreatitis, transfusion reaction, trauma, burns, thromboembolism)

**Patient has Sepsis**

**WITHIN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> HOUR ANTIBIOTICS MUST HAVE BEEN PRESCRIBED AND ADMINISTERED**

- Give oxygen to maintain target saturations > 94%-99% (or 88%-92% following senior clinical review if at risk of type II respiratory failure)  
 - Blood cultures: take at least one set plus FBC, U&E's, LFT's, CRP, INR, APTT, Fibrinogen, Grp/Save (using CyberLab Sepsis order set). Check Serum Lactate (arterial or venous). ABG, if patient requiring >40% oxygen to maintained target saturation or if hypotension/raised lactate.  
 - Prescribe and administer IV antibiotics within 1 hour of diagnosis as per Trust guidelines (CORP/GUID309).  
 - Give fluid challenge in the event of Hypotension (systolic <90mmHg or >40mmHg fall from baseline or MAP <65mmHg) and/or lactate >4 mmol/L: Deliver an initial bolus of up to 30ml/kg of Plasma-lyte 148 in water (or colloid equivalent) in the 1<sup>st</sup> hour intravenously (some patients may require greater volumes). Fluids must be titrated to BP response. Consider maintenance fluids as required. Caution with fluid load > 30ml/kg in patients with significant heart disease.  
 - Continue EWS every 30 mins  
 - Monitor fluids and record fluid balance hourly  
 - Address source control for definitive treatment of underlying cause of sepsis  
 - Request senior review (Consultant or Registrar)  
 - Seek critical care opinion if concerns

**BY THE END OF 3 HOURS A DIAGNOSIS OF SEPSIS, SEVERE SEPSIS OR SEPTIC SHOCK MUST HAVE BEEN MADE AND A MANAGEMENT PLAN CLEARLY IDENTIFIED**

Review patient every 30 mins  
 Are any of the following present and new to the patient?  
 - Act on blood results  
 - Systolic Blood Pressure < 90mmHg or MAP < 65mmHg  
 - New or increased need for oxygen to keep SpO2 >90%  
 - Lactate > 2mmol/l. Consider Severe Sepsis.  
 - Creatinine > 177 μmol/l or Urine output < 0.5ml/kg/hr for 2 hrs  
 - Bilirubin > 34μmol/l Platelets < 100  
 - Coagulopathy: INR >1.5 or APTT >60 s  
 - Catheterise and commence hourly urine output measurement to maintain >0.5mls/kg/hr if hypotension or raised creatinine, oliguria, raised lactate >4mmol/l  
 - Acutely altered mental status

NO → Reassess patient Document appropriate Management plan

**Patient has Severe Sepsis**

Systolic BP <90mmHg or MAP <65mmHg or a fall of >40mmHg or lactate >4mmol from baseline after resuscitation?

**Septic Shock**

**Severe sepsis, no shock**  
 - Refer to Critical Care Outreach Team/Acute Response Team  
 - Ensure management plan is documented in notes  
 - Ensure hourly EWS taken, recorded and acted upon.  
 - Monitor urine output  
 - Record hourly fluid balance  
 - Monitor blood test for signs of AKI  
 - daily antibiotic review  
 - Medical review at 6 hrs

ACCEPTED FOR ITU/HDU

Refer to Critical Care?

Transfer ITU/HDU

WARD MANAGEMENT

- Ensure patient has received adequate fluid resuscitation: boluses of 30ml/kg 0.9% saline or Plasma-lyte 148 in water  
 - If still shocked (low BP/ low urine output/ high lactate) insert central venous catheter under USS guidance (only if competent; otherwise seek help)  
 - Aim to achieve CVP 8-12mmHg with Care, Check CVP Monitor  
 - Consider noradrenaline if still shocked or dobutamine if ScvO2 < 70%. Consider +/- blood transfusion  
 - Take heparinised sample from central line (use ABG syringe): check ScvO2>70%  
 - Consider blood transfusion if haematocrit < 30 and ScvO2 <70%.  
 - Recheck Lactate if initially high >4 mmol/L  
 - Review Antibiotics

- Agree Ceiling of treatment  
 - Consider DNAR

Consider patient for Care of the Dying Patient Plan?

Follow Care of the Dying Patient Pathway – Click here to view

Patient fails to respond to treatment

WITHIN HOURS 2-3

WITHIN HOURS 3-6



Blackpool Teaching Hospitals  
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**MAX. 6 HRS**

# Management of Neutropenic Sepsis in Adults Pathway

KEY:



Mission Critical Points



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Definition: Fever of 38.3°C or more on one occasion, or 38.0°C or more sustained for 1 hour in a patient at risk of neutropenia e.g. post chemotherapy, but the possibility of sepsis must be considered in any unwell patient irrespective of temperature e.g. chills, rigors, unexplained hypotension or hypoxia, signs or symptoms of chest infection.

History & exam with particular attention to the following:

- Nature of chemotherapy, days since cycle completed
- History of bone marrow or stem cell transplant
  - Drug allergies
- Evidence of infection - oropharynx, sinuses, perineum, central venous lines, skin lesions, chest, abdomen
- Evidence of septicaemic shock, hypoxia, renal failure, DIC

Investigations:

- Two sets of blood cultures including set from any central venous lines
- Culture symptomatic sites e.g. throat and skin swabs, sputum, MSU, stool
  - Radiology of symptomatic areas e.g. chest X-ray
- If not already done that day - check FBC, U&Es, LFTs, CRP, G&S +/- coag screen if? DIC?
- Check Serum Lactate (arterial or venous).

**NEVER WAIT FOR RESULTS BEFORE STARTING IV ANTIBIOTICS**

Discuss all cases with the on-call consultant microbiologist

Commence first line antibiotic therapy without delay prescribing first dose on the once-only part of the chart –

Refer to Trust Policy for gentamicin adult dosing treatment CORP/GUID/313

**OMIT Gentamicin for Oncology patients unless authorised by Oncologist**

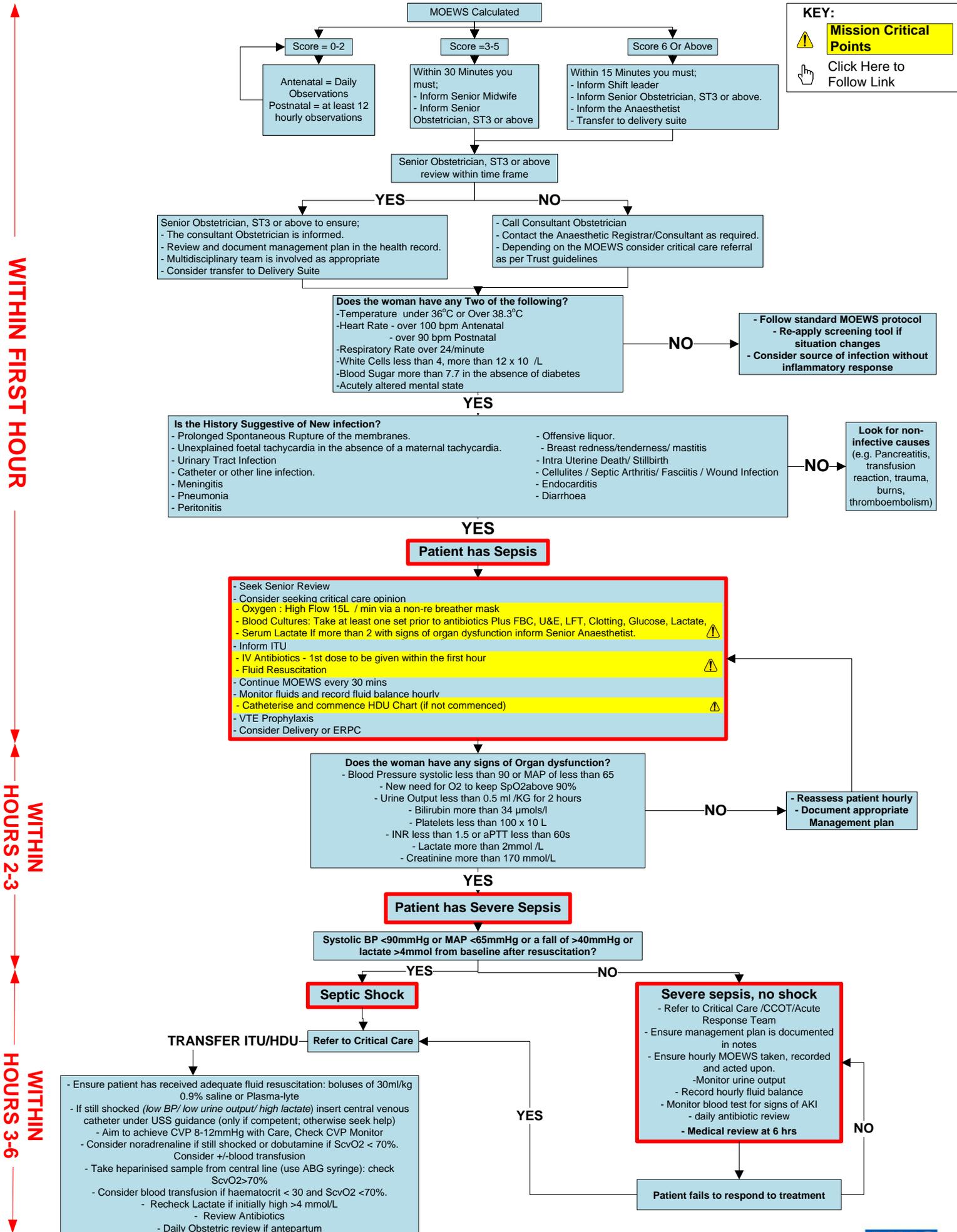
If there has been anaphylaxis with penicillins discuss with on call microbiology. If there is a history of only rash with penicillin give meropenem 1g tds.

Antibiotics must be given as soon as possible and definitely within one hour of hospital admission.

Consider need for additional therapy:

- If septicaemic shock and/or hypoxia → IV fluid, O<sub>2</sub> + GCSF (Granocyte 263mcg sc od)
- Consider ITU referral if patient unstable or fails to improve on the above – discuss with consultant
- Cellulitis at iv catheter sites → teicoplanin
- Severe oral or GIT mucositis → teicoplanin
- Herpetic lesions → aciclovir

# Management of Severely Ill Pregnant or Postnatal Woman Pathway



Taken from Severely Ill Pregnant / Postnatal Woman Guidelines (OBS/GYNAE/GUID/042)

Local Pathway Agreed 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018