

We believe that, once sepsis is accepted as a medical emergency and as a clinical priority for the NHS, we can save up to 10,000 lives each year.

We will achieve this through the promotion of earlier recognition of sepsis and more reliable delivery of immediate life-saving treatments including earlier antibiotics and fluids, by raising awareness, and through innovation, research and the sharing of good practice. To make this happen, we need to ensure that members of the public, patients and their relatives, and health professionals work together to think sepsis.

For further information, to join our campaign, or to make a donation, please visit:

www.sepsistrust.org



SUSPECT SEPSIS.

SAY SEPSIS.

SAVE SOMEONE'S
LIFE TODAY.

Working in partnership with
the Global Sepsis Alliance



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responsibility for individual cases.

SEPSIS KILLS
...BUT TOGETHER
WE CAN BEAT IT

Sepsis was previously known as septicaemia or blood poisoning. Sepsis is the body's reaction to an infection and means your body attacks its own organs and tissues. If not spotted and treated quickly, sepsis can rapidly lead to organ failure and death. Patients and health workers need to work together to ensure life-saving treatment is delivered as soon as possible.

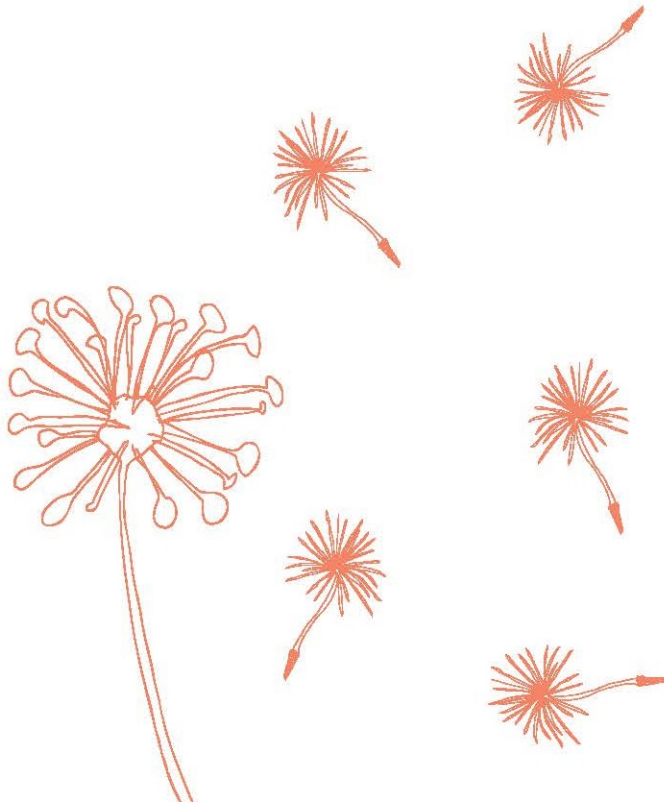


HOW WILL I KNOW?

If a person has two or more of a very high (or very low) temperature, a racing heart beat, rapid shallow breathing, or confusion then they may have sepsis. You should seek medical advice if you are at all concerned.

In the early stages, it is often difficult to distinguish sepsis from 'flu. However, if any of the features above exist and the skin is cold, pale or has developed strange colours or markings ('mottled'), the patient has lost consciousness or has not passed water for more than 18 hours then the patient needs to be taken to hospital as soon as possible. Tests should help to make the diagnosis.

If you suspect sepsis, try to ensure that the patient receives urgent medical attention. Don't be afraid to say "I think this might be sepsis". Remember, if it does turn out to be sepsis, getting this patient treated even one hour earlier might make the difference between life and death.



WHAT IS SEPSIS?

Sepsis accounts for 37,000 deaths annually in the UK. That's more than bowel cancer, breast cancer and prostate cancer put together.

This means that a person dies from sepsis every 14 minutes. Seven during a normal football match. Equivalent to the capacity of a Premier League stadium each year.

SEPSIS IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Patients with the most severe forms of sepsis are up to five times more likely to die than patients with a heart attack or stroke.

Caught early, the outlook is good for the vast majority of patients. It is crucial not to delay seeking medical attention.

International recommendations suggest that treatment should be started within one hour of sepsis being suspected. Research has shown that treatment with intravenous antibiotics and fluids works. Sepsis is an emergency, just like heart attacks and stroke.

SEPSIS IS:

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs.

Infections which can give rise to sepsis are common, and include lung infections (pneumonia), water infections, infections in wounds, bites or the joints, and problems like burst ulcers

Sepsis can lead to shock, multiple organ failure and death, especially if not recognized early and treated promptly.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The good news is, life-saving treatment for sepsis is often relatively straightforward. Early recognition, and getting basic treatments including antibiotics and fluids into the patient within the first hour, can halt the progression of sepsis and hugely improve outcomes for patients.

Antibiotics can cause harm if given inappropriately. Doctors should always prescribe antibiotics with caution. In the case of sepsis, however, they are the single most important life-saving measure.

We recommend a set of such treatments known as the 'Sepsis Six'. These six interventions can be administered by junior nurses and doctors, and have been shown to double the chance of survival.

To find out more about the Sepsis Six, visit our website at www.sepsistrust.org and follow the 'Survive Sepsis' links