



safe in our
hands



Sepsis Guide



Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland



SIRS Triggers

Physiological parameter	Trigger
Temperature	$< 36^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $> 38^{\circ}\text{C}$
Pulse	> 90 beats/min
White blood count	< 4 cells / mm^3 or > 12 cells / mm^3
Respiratory rate	> 20 breaths per minute

Is there suspicion of sepsis?

Sepsis Checklist within first hour

Give O₂ & titrate to SpO₂ ≥ 94%

- Take blood cultures
- Give intra-venous antibiotics
- Intravenous fluid challenge
 - Minimum 500 mls (or documented exception) within 1 hour
 - Re-assess & repeat as clinically indicated
- Measure serum lactate & full blood count
- Assess urine output
 - Consider urinary catheterisation

Things to consider

- Source control
 - What is the focus of infection?
 - Can it be drained percutaneously or surgically?
- Reliable escalation of patient to higher level of care
 - Review time
 - Consultant informed
 - Critical care review

Antimicrobial therapy

- Antimicrobial review by a senior member of medical staff before 3rd dose
- De-escalation of therapy within 72 hours
 - Review indication for antibiotic
 - Review of available microbiology & streamlining of treatment
 - Intravenous to oral switch
- Follow local antimicrobial policy



Additional topics to consider

- Education
 - Burden of illness
 - Current performance
- Staff training
- Executive sponsor
- Clinical leadership
- Multi-disciplinary team working
- Follow local antimicrobial policy