

# IPC Bulletin for GP Staff

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Produced by an NHS Community Infection Prevention and Control Team based in North Yorkshire for distribution to subscribers.



## What is sepsis?

Sepsis is a life threatening condition that arises when the body's response to an infection causes widespread inflammation, leading to tissue damage, organ failure, and potentially death. Every year millions are affected by sepsis, but with prompt recognition and treatment, lives can be saved.

[Click here to view the 'What is Sepsis' 3 minute video](#)

## Sepsis... the facts!

- Sepsis is the number one cause of preventable death in the world.
- It accounts for around 50,000 deaths each year in the UK.
- This is more than the combined total number of deaths from breast, bowel, and prostate cancer.
- Any type of infection - bacterial, viral or fungal, can lead to sepsis.

**5 people die with SEPSIS every hour in the UK!**

Anyone can develop sepsis, however certain people are at an even higher risk...

- Children under 1
- Adults over 60
- People with weakened immune systems
- People with no spleen
- People with chronic diseases, such as lung, liver, or heart disease

Care home residents are one of the highest risk groups for sepsis, often living with co-morbidities, immunosuppression and are at increased risk of infection.

## Recognise the signs...

- S**lurred Speech or Confusion
- E**xtrême Shivering or Muscle Pain/Fever
- P**assing No Urine All Day
- S**evere Breathlessness
- I**t Feels Like You're Going To Die [click here](#)
- S**kin Mottled or Discoloured



**Sepsis requires urgent medical care.**

**If you suspect sepsis call 999 immediately!**

### What's new

- IPC training event for General Practice and Dental Practice: 11th November, 2024. A booking form can be downloaded at: [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/)
- For a statement from NHS Estates and Facilities on the use of yellow colour coded cleaning materials and equipment for 'Isolation, treatment and minor operation rooms' visit [www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/national-colour-coding-scheme-for-general-and-dental-practices-poster/](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/national-colour-coding-scheme-for-general-and-dental-practices-poster/)

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

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