

# Pendle Scrutiny Bulletin

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## Spot Sepsis

### Highlighting the symptoms of Sepsis

#### Have you heard of sepsis? Do you know what it is? Could you spot the signs?

Alarming, the Scrutiny Team has found that the answer to all three of these questions is more often than not 'No'.

Sepsis is the reaction to an infection in which the body attacks its own organs and tissues. It affects more than 250,000 people every year in the UK and claims 44,000 lives.

Anyone can develop sepsis after an injury or minor infection. Some people are more vulnerable, including those with a weak immune system, those recovering from recent surgery and the very young and old.

Quick treatment is vital and so it is extremely important that people are aware

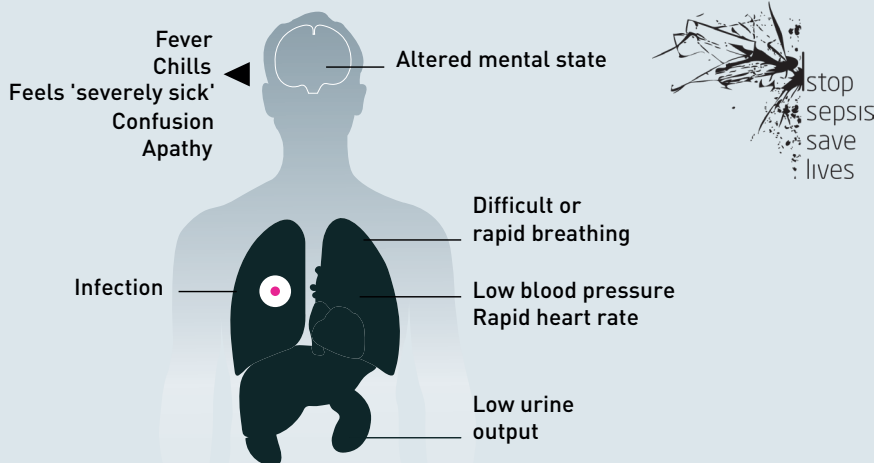
of the symptoms. Delayed diagnosis can lead to long term complications. This is currently costing the UK economy as much as £15.6 billion annually.

Unfortunately, the symptoms are not clear-cut and can be masked by medication, particularly in the elderly.

There is a lot of work taking place within the NHS and amongst health professionals to increase awareness. The Scrutiny Team is keen to do all it can to assist and is working in consultation with the East Lancashire Hospitals Trust to highlight this important issue.

Valuable information can be found on the UK Sepsis Trust website [www.sepsistrust.org](http://www.sepsistrust.org) and also on the NHS website [www.nhs.uk/conditions/Blood-poisoning/Pages/Introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Blood-poisoning/Pages/Introduction.aspx)

#### The following symptoms might indicate sepsis:



Two or more symptoms? Contact your local hospital or physician.

Source: sepsistrust.org

### ANY CHILD WHO:

- 1 Is breathing very fast
- 2 Has a 'fit' or convulsion
- 3 Looks mottled, bluish, or pale
- 4 Has a rash that does not fade when you press it
- 5 Is very lethargic or difficult to wake
- 6 Feels abnormally cold to touch

### MAY HAVE SEPSIS

Call 999 and ask:

Could it be sepsis?

### SYMPTOMS IN A CHILD UNDER 5 INCLUDE:

- 1 Not feeding
- 2 Vomiting repeatedly
- 3 Hasn't had a wee or wet nappy for 12 hours

**JUST ASK**  
"COULD IT BE SEPSIS?"  
IT'S A SIMPLE QUESTION, BUT IT COULD SAVE A LIFE.

The UK Sepsis Trust registered charity number (England & Wales) 1158843.



[www.pendle.gov.uk](http://www.pendle.gov.uk)

