Think Sepsis

Sepsis is the body’s overwhelming and life-threatening response to an infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death\(^1\).

As part of the National CQUIN indicator, reducing the impact of serious infection (Antimicrobial Resistance and Sepsis), the Trust is required to screen 90% of patients who meet the criteria for sepsis in both Emergency Departments and Inpatient settings.

We have seen a great improvement from quarter 1 2016/17 to quarter 1 2017/18. The Emergency Departments have increased from 66% to 82% and the inpatient areas have increased from 63% to 79%.

Case note review highlights that the following areas of focus would further improve early detection of sepsis:

- Early Recognition of Sepsis using the Sepsis Screening tool
- Recording of Blood cultures
- Recording of lactate levels

Further information and a copy of the screening tool can be found in the Sepsis, Recognition and Management guidelines on StaffRoom: Policies and procedures > clinical > general acute medicine > acute medicine > sepsis recognition and management/

**Bernadette Eivers**, Head of Patient Safety York, [Bernadette.Eivers@YORK.NHS.UK](mailto:Bernadette.Eivers@YORK.NHS.UK)

**Helen Noble**, Head of Patient Safety Scarborough, [Helen.Noble@york.nhs.uk](mailto:Helen.Noble@york.nhs.uk)

References:
\(^1\)Sepsis Alliance, Definition of Sepsis. Available at: [http://www.sepsis.org/sepsis/definition/](http://www.sepsis.org/sepsis/definition/) accessed 03/08/2017