Could this be sepsis?

For a person of any age:

- Think **could this be sepsis?** If the person presents with signs or symptoms that indicate infection, even if they do not have a high temperature.
- Be aware that people with sepsis may have non-specific, non-localised presentations (for example, feeling very unwell).
- Pay particular attention to concerns expressed by the person and their family or carer.
- Take particular care in the assessment of people who might have sepsis if they, or their parents or carers, are unable to give a good history (for example, people with English as a second language or people with communication problems).

Take into account that people in the groups below are at higher risk of developing sepsis:

- The very young (under 1 year) and older people (over 75 years) or people who are very frail.
- People who have impaired immune systems because of illness or drugs including:
  - People being treated for cancer with chemotherapy
  - People who have impaired immune function (for example, people with diabetes, people who have had a splenectomy, or people with sickle cell disease.
  - People taking long term steroids.
  - People taking immunosuppressant drugs to treat non-malignant disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis.
- People who have had surgery, or other invasive procedures in the past 6 weeks.
- People with any breach of skin integrity (for example, cuts, burns, blisters or skin infections).
- People who misuse drugs intravenously.
- People with indwelling lines or catheters.

Early identification and treatment prevents death and leads to better outcomes.

Further information: UK Sepsis Trust: [https://sepsistrust.org/](https://sepsistrust.org/)
NICE Guidance: [https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng51](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng51)