

Revised Paediatric Sepsis Clinical Pathway Factsheet

Background

Sepsis represents a leading cause of preventable death and persistent harm for children in Queensland. An evidence based Paediatric Sepsis Clinical Pathway was implemented in 16 HHS Emergency Departments (ED) in Queensland and 80 rural and remote sites as part of the [Clinical Excellence Sepsis Breakthrough Collaborative Project](#) in 2019/2020

Many advancements have since been made including:

- an 18-month trial in 2020/2021 piloting a Paediatric Sepsis Inpatient Pathway in 8 paediatric wards across the state
- the development of a [Sepsis Clinical Care Standard](#) to improve the standards of care across the country and
- ongoing feedback from consumers wanting consistent information and support throughout their sepsis journey.

To meet these needs, the Pathway has been revised to extend beyond the acute resuscitation and treatment bundle into a sepsis management plan now covering the whole sepsis episode from presentation to discharge home.

About the revised Paediatric Sepsis Pathway

The revised Paediatric Sepsis Pathway is based on international best practice and incorporates input from a broad range of paediatric experts and consumers across the state.

The ED Tertiary and Secondary, ED Rural and Remote and Paediatric Sepsis Inpatient Pathways have now been combined into one single pathway that is suitable regardless of location.

Newly included in this paper pathway:

- monitoring and reassessment guide
- comprehensive management plan
- information sheet for parents and carers of a child diagnosed with sepsis

Updated content includes:

- screening and recognition tool
- antimicrobial guidelines
- sepsis checklist for families

The revised Pathway has been reviewed and evaluated by an independent human factors expert to ensure clarity, usability, and alignment with the national Sepsis Clinical Care standard.

Queensland Government
PAEDIATRIC Sepsis Pathway

Facility: _____ (Affix identification label here)
 URN: _____
 Family name: _____
 Given name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 Date of birth: _____ Sex: M F I

Clinical pathways never replace clinical judgement. Use this pathway in children younger than 16 years. 16-18 year olds may use the adult or paediatric sepsis clinical pathway.
Sepsis is infection with organ dysfunction. Sepsis is a MEDICAL EMERGENCY.

SCREEN AND RECOGNISE
 Screening initiated: YES NO (24hr)

Could it be sepsis?
 Signs of infection or history and evidence of fever or hypothermia
PLUS ANY of the following
 Looks sick or toxic Altered behaviour or reduced level of consciousness
 Parental, carer or clinician concern Age younger than 3 months
 Re-presentation with same illness Sepsis admission within the last 30 days
 Immunocompromised Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person
 *For Oncology patients refer to 'Management of Suspected Neutropenic Sepsis Pathway (SW736)'

Document full set of observations in CEWT including blood pressure and AVPU

Does the patient have ANY features of severe illness?
 Severe respiratory distress, tachypnoea or apnoea (CEWT respiratory score 3) Altered AVPU
 Severe tachycardia (CEWT heart rate score 3) Poor skin perfusion or cold extremities
 Hypotension (CEWT blood pressure score 2) Lactate >2mmol/L (if known)

Other laboratory features of severe illness (if known):
 Low platelets Elevated creatinine Elevated INR or bilirubin Elevated CRP
 These laboratory tests are not mandatory

Do you still suspect sepsis?
 YES: Patient is highly likely to HAVE sepsis or septic shock. Immediate senior medical review or call Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ) 1300 799 127. Immediate monitoring in close observation area.
 THEN: Senior medical review attended: YES NO (24hr)
 Does the senior clinician think sepsis is likely?
 Yes - sepsis with shock Yes - sepsis without shock OR Unlikely sepsis
 YES: Sepsis has been diagnosed by a senior medical doctor. Start resuscitation and treatment for sepsis NOW (next page). Escalate to MET, PICU, ICU or RSQ 1300 799 127.
 NO: Give Paediatric Sepsis Checklist to parent or carer (tear off back page).

Signature Log Every person documenting in this clinical pathway must supply a sample of their initials and signature below

Initials	Signature	Print name	Role

Go to [CEQ Clinical Pathways](#) to view a copy of the Pathway or refer to the *How to Order* section below to order for your facility.



Stakeholder Engagement

The revised Pathway was developed following extensive consultation with multiple stakeholders across Queensland. There has been repeated and widespread consultation with the following groups:

- Paediatric Sepsis Clinical Advisory Group
- Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network (QYCNC) Clinician Collaborative
- Children's Health Queensland Medicines Advisory Committee (CHQMAC)
- Rural and Remote Sepsis Working Group
- Queensland Emergency Department Strategic Advisory Panel (QEDSAP) Emergency Care of Children Working Group
- Directors of Paediatrics
- Paediatric Intensive Care Advisory Group (PICAG)

How to order

The revised Pathway is now available to order directly via [WINC](#). Use the code below or speak to your cost centre manager or local Health Information Manager (HIM) to arrange purchasing of the forms.

Form ID	Title	Winc code
SW1205	Paediatric Sepsis Pathway	1NY42186

We recognise there will be a period of transition for facilities using the ED Tertiary and Secondary (SW866), ED Rural and Remote (SW944) and Inpatient Paediatric Sepsis Pathways (SW1054). Facilities can exhaust all their existing stock before reordering the revised Paediatric Sepsis Pathway (SW1205).

Key Documents

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Guide](#)
- [National Sepsis Clinical Care Standard](#)
- [Surviving sepsis guidelines](#)
- [Global Burden of Disease Study](#)
- [Children's Resuscitation Emergency Drug Dosage \(CREDD\) Education](#)
- [Sepsis – Recognition and emergency management in children guideline](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

For more details on what has changed and why, resources and support available including guidelines and education as well as updates on the digital pathway and dashboard refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guide.

Education

- [Paediatric Sepsis Series – Revised Pathway Launch Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)
- [Optimus PRIME eLearning package \(Module 8: Sepsis\)](#)
- [Optimus CORE eLearning package](#)
- [Optimus Educational skills training videos](#)
- [How to use the Paediatric Sepsis Pathway](#)
- [How to use the Paediatric Sepsis Pathway Management Plan](#)
- [How to use the Paediatric Sepsis Pathway with case studies](#)
- [The Role of Parents in Sepsis Recognition and Management](#)
- [Pathway Implementation Framework](#)
- [Pathway Implementation Toolkit](#)
- [Paediatric Sepsis Pathway management plan explained posters](#)

More Information

The Queensland Paediatric Sepsis Program (QPSP) is committed to supporting your service to adopt the Paediatric Sepsis Pathway and improve outcomes for families and children.

For more information email paediatricsepsis@health.qld.gov.au or request QPSP support via the [online referral form](#).