

SEPSIS

Information for families of a child with sepsis

What is sepsis?

Sepsis happens when the body has an extreme response to an infection and starts to damage its own tissues and organs. Sepsis starts with infection; most often with bacterial infections of the brain, lungs, bladder, kidneys, abdomen, skin and soft tissues.

Who can help you in hospital

It can be scary to be in hospital with your sick child. There are lots of people to help you and your child while you're here. Ask your child's nurse or doctor who is available at your hospital to help.

This may include:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners are qualified healthcare workers. They work with you and your child's team to make sure your child receives culturally friendly health care.

Indigenous Hospital Liaison Officers (IHLOs) help you with talking with hospital staff, practical assistance and making sure that you feel culturally safe.

Social Workers give emotional and practical help to you and your child with managing the effects of your child's sepsis diagnosis, treatment and hospital stay.

Nursing and Medical staff provide and monitor your child's medical treatment and arrange



transfer to the most appropriate place for your child's care (which may be a general ward or Paediatric Intensive Care Unit).

Nurse Navigators help you to understand the health system so you can confidently manage your child's health needs.

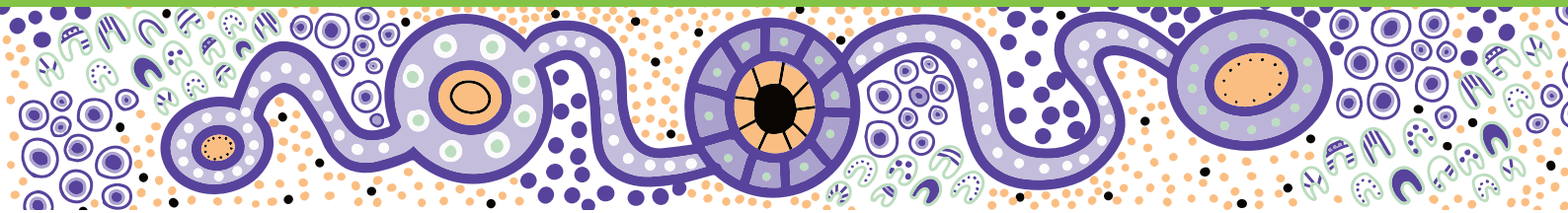
Translators or Interpreters are available 24 hrs a day, in person or over the phone, to help in reducing communication barriers between medical staff and yourself.



Ryan's Rule

If you have concerns that your child's health condition is getting worse or not improving, discuss this initially with the healthcare team. You can also search 'Ryan's Rule' on the Children's Health Queensland website to learn about raising concerns.





Questions you could ask your child's healthcare team

- What will my child's medical care involve?
- Who is providing this medical care?
- How will my child be affected by sepsis?
- Are there any complications of sepsis that I should know about?
- How did my child become sick with sepsis?
- Who is my main contact person within the hospital for my child?
- Are we able to use some of our own healing practices for our child?
- Who do I speak to if I am worried that my child is getting sicker?
- Who can help my family and I while my child is in hospital?
- What should I expect when my child is ready to go home?
- Is my child likely to need to come back to hospital?
- What are signs that my child is getting sick again?
- When should I take my child to see the local Health Worker or return to hospital?
- Who can help my child and I once we are home?



Resources

Please take some time to have a look at the range of videos and information about sepsis and managing your child's admission with sepsis.

We have many resources and links to support programs on our website. You can easily find these at [Sepsis family support | Children's Health Queensland](#) or scan the QR code below.



Children's Health Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

This resource has been endorsed by:



Illnesses can change – trust your gut feeling. Even if your child has recently had sepsis, if you think they may have sepsis again come back to hospital and ask 'Could it be sepsis?'

Visit www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/sepsis