

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition caused when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs¹

Sepsis can bring about changes in **organ function, cell biology, immunology and circulation**, potentially leading to long-term **physical, psychological and cognitive disabilities**¹

If sepsis is not spotted and treated quickly, it can rapidly lead to organ failure and death²



In the UK, sepsis is more common

than **heart attacks** and kills more people than **bowel, breast and prostate cancer** and **road accidents** combined²

Every year in the UK:²



An estimated **250,000** people experience sepsis

52,000 people die because of sepsis

60,000 people suffer the permanent, life-changing after-effects of sepsis

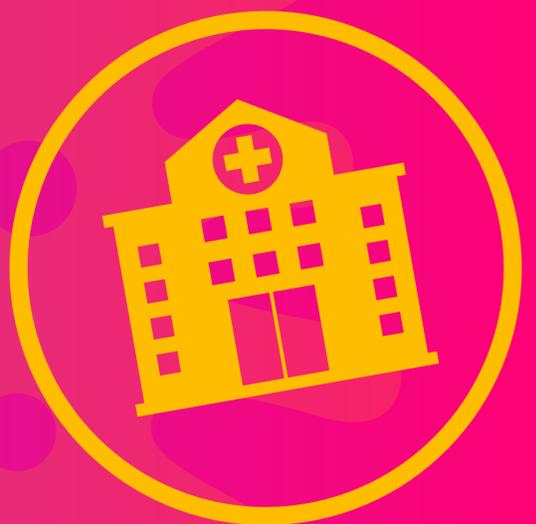


Yet, despite these statistics, public awareness of sepsis is astonishingly low²

Anyone can contract sepsis; however, it is more likely in populations at increased risk of infection.

Call emergency services or visit your hospital emergency department if you notice any of the following sepsis symptoms:³

- 1 Acting confused, slurred speech or not making sense
- 2 Blue, pale or blotchy skin, lips or tongue
- 3 A rash that does not fade when you roll a glass over it, the same as meningitis
- 4 Difficulty breathing, breathlessness or breathing very fast
- 5 A weak, high-pitched cry that's not like their normal cry (babies or children)
- 6 Not responding like they normally do, or not interested in feeding or normal activities
- 7 Being sleepier than normal or difficult to wake



Not all symptoms need to be experienced

How a patient is treated for sepsis will depend on the damage caused by the sepsis, but it typically involves:⁴

- Intravenous antibiotics to fight the infection
- Medications to increase blood pressure
- Insulin to stabilise blood sugar
- Corticosteroids to reduce inflammation
- Pain relievers to help with discomfort



1. Singer M, et al. *JAMA*. 2016;315(8):801–810.

2. The UK Sepsis Trust. <https://sepsistrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/UKST-volunteer-speaker-notes-2019.pdf>. Accessed September 2022.

3. NHS. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sepsis/>. Accessed September 2022.

4. Healthline. <https://www.healthline.com/health/sepsis>. Accessed September 2022.