



14/06/2024

Ms. Roisin Shortall

E: / cc: roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 21907/24

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if there are mandatory protocols in respect of sepsis management in all healthcare facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Ms Shortall,

The National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) was requested by the Minister for Health to commission the National Clinical Guideline for Sepsis in 2014 arising from a significant patient safety/policy matter. This guideline was updated in 2021.

This NCG applies to all adult patients including pregnant women and women in the postnatal period up to 42 days, in the acute hospital sector. There are also guidelines for the management of Paediatric Sepsis and Septic shock.

National Clinical Guidelines do not replace professional judgment on particular cases, whereby the clinician or health professional decides that individual guideline recommendations are not appropriate in the circumstances presented by an individual patient, or whereby an individual patient declines a recommendation as a course of action in their care or treatment plan.

To support this guideline the sepsis programme produces treatment guidelines and decision support tools that emphasise the underlying principles of sepsis therapy such as early appropriate antibiotics and vigorous resuscitation.

Sepsis is a disease that has a very variable presentation. This is dependent upon a number of factors including patient age, co existent illnesses, site of infection and the species of infecting organism. As such, the specifics of treatment can differ markedly from patient to patient.

The programme does not mandate specific treatments as clinician autonomy is important in such a variable disease process and allows for variation to embrace new facets of treatment in response to emerging new evidence in a field which is the focus of intense global research innovation.

I hope this answers your query.

Yours sincerely,

Bláthnaid Connolly
Programme Manager
National Clinical Programme: Sepsis