

Improving the identification of sepsis in primary care

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ABUHB

National Early Warning Score

- Not validated in the community setting
- Royal College of Physicians recommend its use to improve the communication of acute illness severity by first responders and primary care to the receiving hospital clinician
- Minimum data set

NEWS parameters

- Respiratory rate
- Oxygen saturation
- Temperature
- Systolic blood pressure
- Pulse rate
- Level of consciousness using AVPU:
 - A=alert
 - V= response to voice
 - P=response to painful stimulus
 - U=unresponsive

Assessment of febrile children

- NICE guidance recommends minimum data set
 - Temperature
 - Heart rate
 - Respiratory rate
 - Capillary refill time (CRT)

Intended impact

- Early identification of the sickest patients
- Pre-hospital baseline data allowing identification of deteriorating observations on arrival
- More rapid time to treatment
- Earlier identification of developing sepsis in the community – fewer ‘missed’ cases

How did it work?

- Admitting GP communicates parameters to call handler
- Call handler training
- Redesigned system in Royal Gwent hospital for processing admission information
- Close working relationships developed between Primary Care, AMU and ABCi

Initial data and impact

- Last audit demonstrated 70% reporting of all six parameters
- Further CPD events planned to further raise awareness
- Takes a long time to fully embed new practice
- Keep going!