

Dear Colleagues

We are increasingly sharing complex patient care both with long-term condition but also with more acute situations such as infections and potential progression to life threatening sepsis in the community and hospitals. ***44,000 people lose their lives to sepsis every year. Every 3.5 seconds someone dies from sepsis and it is the biggest cause of death in UK pregnancies. Worldwide sepsis claims approximately 6 million lives.***

So what can help to meet this significant challenge? As always there are many factors BUT the most important is a standardised method of baseline vital signs observations with high index of suspicion for sepsis. Equally ongoing surveillance with uniform sharing and communication of any deterioration regardless of roles and settings. The updated **National Early Warning Score (NEWS)** is now part of the national ambition and recommended for use by **all Health and Social Care professionals across all settings. Please share the information below with all your teams members for further information and adoption.**

The Royal College of Physicians has recently updated its [National Early Warning Score \(NEWS\) 2](#).

The National Quality Board has endorsed its use as the standardised system for the assessment of acute illness in adults and communication between healthcare practitioners.

NEWS2 has also received formal [endorsement](#) from NHS England and NHS Improvement to become the early warning system for identifying acutely ill patients - including those with sepsis - in hospitals in England.

An [online training resource](#) is available for all health and social care staff to learn about the implementation and use of NEWS2.

HEE asks that all educators should ensure that:

- Health and social care staff are made aware of the recent updates to [NEWS2](#) and its use as the standardised system for the assessment of acute illness in adults and communication between healthcare practitioners.
- All training materials are updated to reflect the [NEWS2](#) guidance.
- Health and social care staff are signposted to and encouraged to use the NEWS [online training resource](#) as part of their learning and development.

Many thanks for your co operation and please contact us at EKCEPN if any educational support is required, though the online learning resources are very good.