

SPSP Acute Adult Programme Sepsis Change Package 2023

Extended version with resources

Background

The [Scottish Patient Safety Programme \(SPSP\) Deteriorating Patient Programme](#) includes a focus on adult sepsis in acute hospitals.

This publication is the latest version of the SPSP sepsis change package, first published in 2012, and last updated in 2018.

The change package provides an evidence-informed resource to support teams to improve outcomes for adults with sepsis.

Overview

The [main driver diagram](#) page includes a **National aim**, **Primary Drivers** and **Secondary Drivers**.

Each primary driver is broken down to include **secondary drivers** and associated **change ideas**.


Evidence, guidelines, tools, and resources are included for each secondary driver.

Additional resources available on our [website](#):

- Shorter version without tools and resources
- Accessible version with tools and resources
- Measurement framework

This is an interactive document.

Clicking the **home icon**  will return you to the main driver diagram.

Clicking the **arrow icon**  will return you to the primary driver associated with that section.

How the change package was developed



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With support from [Sepsis Research \(FEAT\)](#), **people with lived experience of sepsis** were invited to contribute to the driver diagram by sharing their perspectives using [discovery conversations](#).



An **Expert Reference Group (ERG)** was formed as part of the co-design process. The ERG included clinical and quality improvement colleagues from across NHS Scotland.

The update has been informed by the latest **evidence and guidance**, including publications from the [Academy of Medical Royal Colleges \(AoMRC\)](#) (2022), the [Surviving Sepsis Campaign Adult Guidelines](#) (2021) and [SIGN 167 Care of Deteriorating Patients guideline](#) (2023).

Sepsis Driver Diagram 2023



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What are we trying to achieve...

Improve outcomes
for people with
sepsis by reducing
infection-related
mortality
by 10%

We need to ensure...

Early recognition of
sepsis

Timely structured
response to sepsis

Safe communication*

Leadership* to support a
culture of high quality
care and patient safety

Which requires...

Recognition of suspected infection and new organ dysfunction

Regular reassessment for worsening physiology or clinical concern

Recognition and escalation of patient, family and carer concern

Escalation of clinical concern

A structured response to deterioration

Sepsis Six and source control informed by
illness severity and likelihood of infection

Effective antimicrobial stewardship

Senior clinical decision maker review

Person and family centred care planning*

Effective multidisciplinary and multiagency team working

Psychological safety to support escalation of concerns

Visible leadership at all levels

Safe staffing* and resources to enable delivery of safe care

System for learning* to support continuous improvement

Staff wellbeing*

Primary Driver

Early recognition of sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Recognition of infection and new organ dysfunction

Use of NEWS2 to identify deterioration and organ dysfunction

Process to determine likelihood of infection, e.g. AoMRC decision making framework

Use of electronic observations to support clinical decision making

Process to identify variation in presentation, e.g. considerations of ethnicity in pulse oximetry, deterioration in optimal posture

Regular reassessment for worsening physiology or clinical concern

NEWS2 charting allows documentation of clinical judgement that may alter frequency of observations

Patients, families, and carers are given advice to support identification of further deterioration

Local process to proactively identify and reassess people at higher risk of deterioration, e.g. neutropenia

Patient, family and carer view of illness and concerns consistently sought e.g. asking 'how well are you feeling compared to the last time we asked you?'

Recognition and escalation of patient, family and carer concern

Provision of accessible information to patients, families, and carers to support early recognition and access to treatment in sepsis

Process for patients, families, and carers to raise concerns about acute deterioration

Locally agreed process for staff to document and escalate concerns raised by patients, families and carers

Process to reliably provide feedback to the person who raised concern

Escalation of clinical concern

Locally agreed escalation framework that incorporates clinical concern

Reliable notification of deterioration to consultant in charge of patient's care

Reliable timely triage of people with sepsis including in transition from NHS24, primary care, and SAS

Consider system-wide escalation mechanisms e.g. outreach team, electronic NEWS2 and decision support



Primary Driver:

Early recognition of sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Recognition of
infection and new
organ dysfunction

Use of NEWS2 to
identify deterioration
and organ dysfunction

Process to determine
likelihood of infection, e.g.
AoMRC decision making
framework

Use of electronic
observations to support
clinical decision making

Process to identify variation in
presentation, e.g. considerations of
ethnicity in pulse oximetry,
deterioration in optimal posture

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. [Statement on the initial antimicrobial treatment of sepsis V2.0](#) 2022.
- Bangash MN, Hodson J, Evison F, et al. [Impact of ethnicity on the accuracy of measurements of oxygen saturations: A retrospective observational cohort study](#). EClinicalMedicine. 2022;48:101428.
- Nsutebu EF, Ibarz-Pavón AB, Kanwar E, et al. [Advancing quality in sepsis management: a large-scale programme for improving sepsis recognition and management in the North West region of England](#). Postgrad Med J. 2018;94(1114):463-468.
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. [SIGN 167 Care of deteriorating patients. A national clinical guideline](#). 2023.
- Society of Critical Care Medicine. [Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines 2021](#). 2021.
- Warttig S, Alderson P, Evans DJ, Lewis SR, Kourbeti IS, Smith AF. [Automated monitoring compared to standard care for the early detection of sepsis in critically ill patients](#). Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2018;6(6):CD012404.

Tools and Resources:

- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [National early warning score \(NEWS\) in NHS Scotland](#). 2021.
- Nutbeam T, Daniels R on behalf of the UK Sepsis Trust. [Clinical Tools](#). 2023.
- Royal College of Physicians. [National Early Warning Score \(NEWS\)](#). 2017.

Primary Driver:

Early recognition of sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Regular
reassessment for
worsening
physiology or
clinical concern

NEWS2 charting allows
documentation of
clinical judgement that
may alter frequency of
observations

Patients, families, and
carers are given advice to
support identification of
further deterioration

Local process to
proactively identify and
reassess people at higher
risk of deterioration, e.g.
neutropenia

Patient, family and carer view of
illness and concerns consistently
sought e.g. asking 'how well are
you feeling compared to the last
time we asked you?'

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Goodacre S, Fuller G, Conroy S, Hendrikse C. [Diagnosis and management of sepsis in the older adult](#). BMJ. 2023;382:e075585.
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. [National Early Warning Score systems that alert to deteriorating adult patients in hospital](#). 2020.
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. [SIGN 167 Care of deteriorating patients. A national clinical guideline](#). 2023.

Tools and Resources:

- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [National early warning score \(NEWS\) in NHS Scotland](#). 2021.
- NHS Inform. [Communication and involving you](#). 2023.



Primary Driver:

Early recognition of sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Recognition and
escalation of
patient, family and
carer concern

Provision of accessible
information to patients, families,
and carers to support early
recognition and access to
treatment in sepsis

Process for patients,
families, and carers to
raise concerns about
acute deterioration

Locally agreed process for staff
to document and escalate
concerns raised by patients,
families and carers

Process to reliably
provide feedback to
the person who
raised concern

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Bucknall T, Quinney R, Booth L, McKinney A, Subbe CP, Odell M. [When patients \(and families\) raise the alarm: Patient and family activated rapid response as a safety strategy for hospitals](#). Future Healthc J. 2021;8(3):e609-e612.
- Demos. [Martha's Rule: A new policy to amplify patient voice and improve safety in hospitals](#). 2023.
- McCoy L, Lewis JH, Simon H, et al. [Learning to Speak Up for Patient Safety: Interprofessional Scenarios for Training Future Healthcare Professionals](#). J Med Educ Curric Dev. 2020;7:2382120520935469.
- McKinney A, Fitzsimons D, Blackwood B, McGaughey J. [Patient and family involvement in escalating concerns about clinical deterioration in acute adult wards: A qualitative systematic review](#). Nurs Crit Care. 2021;26(5):352-362.
- Mills M. [Martha's rule: a hospital escalation system to save patients' lives](#). BMJ. 2023;383:2319.

Tool and Resources:

- NHS Inform. [Communication and involving you](#). 2023.
- Sepsis Research FEAT. [Sepsis Awareness](#). 2023.

Primary Driver:

Early recognition of sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Escalation of clinical concern

Locally agreed escalation framework that incorporates clinical concern

Reliable notification of deterioration to consultant in charge of patient's care

Reliable timely triage of people with sepsis including in transition from NHS24, primary care, and SAS

Consider system-wide escalation mechanisms e.g. outreach team, electronic NEWS2 and decision support

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Care Quality Commission. [PEOPLE FIRST: Escalation](#). 2023.
- Ede J, Petrinic T, Westgate V, et al. [Human factors in escalating acute ward care: a qualitative evidence synthesis](#). BMJ Open Quality 2021;10:e001145.
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. [SIGN 167 Care of deteriorating patients. A national clinical guideline](#). 2023.
- Wood C, Chaboyer W, Carr P. [How do nurses use early warning scoring systems to detect and act on patient deterioration to ensure patient safety? A scoping review](#). Int J Nurs Stud. 2019;94:166-178.

Tools and Resources:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [SPSP Acute Adult. Principles of Structured Response to Deterioration](#). 2022.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [SPSP Acute Adult. Structure Response to Deterioration Mapping Tool](#). 2023.
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [National early warning score \(NEWS\) in NHS Scotland](#). 2021.

Primary Driver

Timely structured response to sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas



A structured response to deterioration

Locally agreed standardised approach to structured response to deterioration

Shared decision making supported by access to any existing future care plan

Locally agreed criteria for completion of person centred TEP

Reassessment criteria documented as part of management plan e.g., worsening NEWS2 despite treatment

Sepsis Six and source control informed by illness severity and likelihood of infection

Use of AoMRC decision making framework to support timely delivery of Sepsis Six

Process to ensure assessment for source control and implementing any source control interventions in a timely manner

Collection of appropriate samples for infection investigations, including blood cultures, prior to first antimicrobial

Clinical assessment considers non-bacterial causes (e.g. viral infection) and associated de-escalation

Effective Antimicrobial stewardship

Process to establish true allergy status to maximise opportunity for first line antimicrobials

Antimicrobial plan documented in clinical notes, HEPMA and handover

Daily antimicrobial review informed by clinical assessment and microbiology results

Antimicrobials prescribed in line with local guidance, severity, and relevant past medical history

Daily antimicrobial review considers IV-Oral Switch Therapy (IVOST) in line with local guidance

Senior clinical decision maker review

Local escalation processes enable early involvement of a senior clinical decision maker

Locally agreed process for critical care review

Consultant review at least daily and within 14hrs of hospital admission

Local escalation processes set out who to contact and when

Primary Driver:

Timely structured response to sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

A structured
response to
deterioration

Locally agreed standardised
approach to structured
response to deterioration

Shared decision
making supported by
access to any existing
future care plan

Locally agreed criteria for
completion of person
centred TEP

Reassessment criteria
documented as part of
management plan e.g., worsening
NEWS2 despite treatment

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Pearse W, Oprescu F, Endacott J, Goodman S, Hyde M, O'Neill M. [Advance care planning in the context of clinical deterioration: a systematic review of the literature](#). Palliat Care. 2019;12:1178224218823509.
- Pel-Littel et al. Barriers and facilitators for shared decision making in older patients with multiple chronic conditions: a systematic review. BMC Geriatr. 2021;21:112. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-021-02050-y>
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. [SIGN 167 Care of deteriorating patients. A national clinical guideline](#). 2023.
- Taylor DR, Lightbody CJ, Venn R, Ireland A. [Responding to the deteriorating patient: The rationale for treatment escalation plans](#). J R Coll Physicians Edinb. 2022;52(2):172-9.

Tools and Resources:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Right Decision Service. [Response to deterioration](#). 2023.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. SPSP Acute Adult. [Principles of Structured Response to Deterioration](#). 2022.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. SPSP Acute Adult. [Structure Response to Deterioration Mapping Tool](#). 2023.

Primary Driver:

Timely structured response to sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Sepsis Six and source control informed by illness severity and likelihood of infection

Change ideas

Use of [AoMRC](#) decision making framework to support timely delivery of Sepsis Six

Process to ensure assessment for source control and implementing any source control interventions in a timely manner

Collection of appropriate samples for infection investigations, including blood cultures, prior to first antimicrobial

Clinical assessment considers non-bacterial causes (e.g. viral infection) and associated de-escalation



Evidence and Guidelines:

- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. [Statement on the initial antimicrobial treatment of sepsis V2.0](#). 2022.
- Goodacre S, Fuller G, Conroy S, Hendrikse C. [Diagnosis and management of sepsis in the older adult](#). BMJ 2023; 382 :e075585
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Guidance. [Start smart then focus: antimicrobial stewardship toolkit for inpatient care settings](#). 2023.
- NHS National Services Scotland. [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual](#). 2023.
- Society of Critical Care Medicine. [Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines 2021](#).

Tools and Resources:

- The UK Sepsis Trust. [Our Clinical Tools](#). 2024.
- [Antimicrobial prescribing](#) guidance and resources are available from collections within the Healthcare Improvement Scotland Right Decision Service.

Primary Driver:

Timely structured response to sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Effective Antimicrobial stewardship

Process to establish true allergy status to maximise opportunity for first line antimicrobials

Antimicrobial plan documented in clinical notes, HEPMA and handover

Daily antimicrobial review informed by clinical assessment and microbiology results

Antimicrobials prescribed in line with local guidance, severity, and relevant past medical history

Daily antimicrobial review considers IV-Oral Switch Therapy (IVOST) in line with local guidance

Evidence and Guidelines:

- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. [Guidance. Start smart then focus: antimicrobial stewardship toolkit for inpatient care settings.](#) 2023.
- Atkins PE, Bastin MLT, Morgan RJ, Laine ME, Flannery AH. [Pharmacist Involvement in Sepsis Response and Time to Antibiotics: A Systematic Review.](#) J Am Coll Clin Pharm. 2023;6(8):942-953.
- Ture Z, Güner R, Alp E. [Antimicrobial stewardship in the intensive care unit.](#) J Intensive Med. 2022;3(3):244-253.

Tools and Resources:

- [Antimicrobial prescribing](#) guidance and resources are available from collections within the Healthcare Improvement Scotland Right Decision Service.

Primary Driver:

Timely structured response to sepsis



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Senior clinical
decision maker
review

Local escalation
processes enable early
involvement of a
senior clinical decision
maker

Locally agreed
process for critical
care review

Consultant review at
least daily and within
14hrs of hospital
admission

Local escalation
processes set out who
to contact and when



Evidence and Guidelines:

- Campling N, Cummings A, Myall M, et al. [Escalation-related decision making in acute deterioration: a retrospective case note review](#). BMJ Open. 2018;8(8):e022021.
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. [Emergency and acute medical care in over 16s. Quality standard \[QS174\]](#). 2018.
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. [SIGN 167 Care of deteriorating patients. A national clinical guideline](#). 2023.

Tools and Resources:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Right Decision Service. [Response to deterioration](#). 2023.

Primary Driver

Safe communication*



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas



Person and family centred care planning

Existing complex care plans, e.g. patient passports, used to inform acute care planning

Locally agreed process to understand pre-hospital baseline

Use of 'what matters to you' approach to plan and deliver care

Use of the word 'sepsis' in person centred conversations at point of deterioration

Documented person centred discussion with patient and family about recovery trajectory and rehabilitation planning

Effective multidisciplinary and multiagency team working

Patients of concern identified during board rounds, unit safety briefs and hospital huddles

Structured handovers within and between teams e.g. use of SBAR

Process for engaging all specialist and community teams involved in the person's care, e.g. social work, home care

Clarity of team roles and responsibilities in the care of a deteriorating patient

Psychological safety to support escalation of concerns

Processes to support a culture which supports staff and students to raise concerns

Process for managers at all levels to effectively recognise and respond to patient safety concerns

Promotion of Speak Up advocates and ambassadors to encourage staff to raise concerns

Process to reliably provide feedback to the person who reported concern

Primary Driver:

Safe communication*



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Person and family centred care planning

Existing complex care plans, e.g. patient passports, used to inform acute care planning

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Use of 'what matters to you' approach to plan and deliver care

Use of the word 'sepsis' in person centred conversations at point of deterioration

Documented person centred discussion with patient and family about recovery trajectory and rehabilitation planning

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Grant N, Hewitt O, Ash K, et al. [The experiences of sepsis in people with a learning disability – a qualitative investigation](#). Br J Learn Disabil. 2021; 50(4):514-524.
- Islam Z, Pollock K, Patterson A, et al. [Thinking ahead about medical treatments in advanced illness: a qualitative study of barriers and enablers in end-of-life care planning with patients and families from ethnically diverse backgrounds](#). Health Soc Care Deliv Res. 2023;11(7):1-135.
- King HA, Doernberg SB, Miller J, et al. [Patients' Experiences With Staphylococcus aureus and Gram-negative Bacterial Bloodstream Infections: A Qualitative Descriptive Study and Concept Elicitation Phase To Inform Measurement of Patient-reported Quality of Life](#). Clin Infect Dis. 2021;73(2):237-247.
- Warner BE, Lound A, Grailey K, Vindrola-Padros C, Wells M, Brett SJ. [Perspectives of healthcare professionals and older patients on shared decision-making for treatment escalation planning in the acute hospital setting: a systematic review and qualitative thematic synthesis](#). EClinicalMedicine. 2023;62:102144

Tools and Resources:

- The Health Foundation. [Person-centred care made simple. What everyone should know about person-centred care.](#)
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [Equality and Diversity zone](#). 2023.
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [Once for NES: Learning Disabilities. Equal Health](#). 2023.
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [Person-centred resources](#). 2023.

Primary Driver:

Safe communication*



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Effective
multidisciplinary
and multiagency
team working

Patients of concern
identified during
board rounds, unit
safety briefs and
hospital huddles

Structured handovers
within and between
teams e.g. use of SBAR

Process for engaging all specialist
and community teams involved in
the person's care,
e.g. social work, home care

Clarity of team roles and
responsibilities in the care
of a deteriorating patient

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Association of Ambulance Chief Executives. [Delayed hospital handovers: Impact assessment of patient harm](#). 2021
- Hong JQY, Chua WL, Smith D, Huang CM, Goh QLP, Liaw SY. [Collaborative practice among general ward staff on escalating care in clinical deterioration: A systematic review](#). J Clin Nurs. 2023;32(17-18):6165-6178.
- McLaney E, Morassaei S, Hughes L, Davies R, Campbell M, Di Prospero L. [A framework for interprofessional team collaboration in a hospital setting: Advancing team competencies and behaviours](#). Healthcare Management Forum. 2022;35(2):112-117.
- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network. [SIGN 167 Care of deteriorating patients. A national clinical guideline](#). 2023.

Tools and Resources:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [Understanding the key components of effective morning Hospital Huddles](#). 2021.
- NHS Education Scotland (NES). [SBAR](#). 2017.



Primary Driver:

Safe communication*



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Psychological safety
which supports
escalation of
concerns

Processes to support a
culture which supports
staff and students to raise
concerns

Process for managers at all
levels to effectively recognise
and respond to patient safety
concerns

Promotion of Speak Up
advocates and ambassadors
to encourage staff to raise
concerns

Process to reliably provide
feedback to the person
who reported concern



Evidence and Guidelines:

- Martin GP, Chew S, Dixon-Woods M. [Why do systems for responding to concerns and complaints so often fail patients, families and healthcare staff? A qualitative study](#). Social Science & Medicine. 2021. 287:114375.
- NHS Providers. [Psychological Safety and Why It Matters](#). 2020.
- Pian-Smith MC, Simon R, Minehart RD, et al. [Teaching residents the two-challenge rule: a simulation-based approach to improve education and patient safety](#). Simul Healthc. 2009;4(2):84-91

Tools and Resources:

- NHS Education Scotland (NES). [National Whistleblowing Standards training](#). 2021.
- NHS Education Scotland (NES). [Speaking up: national whistleblowing guidance for nursing and midwifery students in Scotland](#). 2021.

Primary Driver

Leadership to support a culture of safety



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas



Visible leadership at all levels

Conduct and share learning from leadership walkrounds

Opportunity for senior leaders to review sepsis related data and trends

Access to clinical and improvement leadership time to support sepsis improvement work

Sepsis improvement work aligns with organisational priorities

Safe staffing and resources to enable delivery of safe care

Identify and mitigate staffing needs using real time staffing tools, including acuity assessment

Process to escalate staffing shortfalls

Education and induction includes local processes for early recognition and response for sepsis

Identify and mitigate time periods where escalation response is less reliable

System for learning to support continuous improvement

Collect, share, and act on data and learning between teams, hospitals, and boards

Identify and share learning through existing processes e.g. MDT morbidity and mortality meetings

Structured process for multidisciplinary hot and cold debriefs

Forums for staff, patients and families, to identify areas for improvement

Staff wellbeing

Use of effective health and wellbeing conversations to identify and mitigate risks to wellbeing

Prioritise civility through communication and teamwork, e.g. use of TeamSTEPPS

Support job satisfaction through evidence based interventions, e.g. Professional Identity Development Programme

Access to senior support and discussion for all staff, e.g. through clinical supervision

Primary Driver:

Leadership to support a culture of safety



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Visible leadership at all levels

Conduct and share learning from leadership walkrounds

Opportunity for senior leaders to review sepsis related data and trends

Access to clinical and improvement leadership time to support sepsis improvement work

Sepsis improvement work aligns with organisational priorities

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Churruca K, Ellis LA, Pomare C, et al. [Dimensions of safety culture: a systematic review of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods for assessing safety culture in hospitals](#). BMJ Open. 2021;11(7):e043982
- Foster, M., Mha, B. S., & Mazur, L. (2023). [Impact of leadership walkarounds on operational, cultural and clinical outcomes: a systematic review](#). BMJ open quality, 12(4), e002284.
- Kirkpatrick I, Altanlar A, Veronesi G. [Doctors in leadership roles: consequences for quality and safety](#). Public Money & Management. 2023 Jun 8:1-8.

Tools and Resources:

- Institute for Healthcare Improvement. [Leading a Culture of Safety: A Blueprint for Success](#). 2017.
- NHS Education for Scotland. [Safety Culture Discussion Cards](#). 2023.
- The King's Fund. [The practice of collaborative leadership: Across health and care services](#). 2023.

Primary Driver:

Leadership to support a culture of safety



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Safe staffing and
resources to enable
delivery of safe care

Identify and mitigate staffing
needs using real time
staffing tools, including
acuity assessment

Process to escalate
staffing shortfalls

Education and induction
includes local processes for
early recognition and response
for sepsis

Identify and mitigate time
periods where escalation
response is less reliable

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Hotta S, Ashida K, Tanaka M. [Night-time detection and response in relation to deteriorating inpatients: A scoping review](#). Nurs Crit Care. Published online April 24, 2023. doi:10.1111/nicc.12917
- Liu Q, Zheng X, Xu L, Chen Q, Zhou F, Peng L. [The effectiveness of education strategies for nurses to recognise and manage clinical deterioration: A systematic review](#). Nurse Educ Today. 2023;126:105838.
- Zaranko B, Sanford NJ, Kelly E, et al. [Nurse staffing and inpatient mortality in the English National Health Service: a retrospective longitudinal study](#). BMJ Quality & Safety 2023;32:254-263.

Tools and Resources:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [Workforce capacity and capability](#). 2021.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [Inclusion and involvement](#). 2021.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [Staffing level \(workload\) tools and methodology](#).
- NHS Education for Scotland. [Health and Care Staffing in Scotland](#). 2022.

Primary Driver:

Leadership to support a culture of safety



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

System for learning to support continuous improvement

Collect, share, and act
on data and learning
between teams,
hospitals, and boards

Identify and share learning
through existing processes e.g.
MDT morbidity and mortality
meetings

Structured process for
multidisciplinary hot and
cold debriefs

Forums for staff, patients and
families to identify areas for
improvement

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [Learning from adverse events through reporting and review. A national framework for Scotland: December 2019](#). 2019.
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement. [Leading a Culture of Safety: A Blueprint for Success](#). 2017.
- James S, Subedi P, Indrasena BSH, Aylott J. [Review Debrief: a collaborative distributed leadership approach to “hot debrief” after cardiac arrest in the emergency department—a quality improvement project](#). Leadership in Health Services. 2022. Jun 28;35(3):390-408
- Steel EJ, Janda M, Jamali S, Winning M, Dai B, Sellwood K. [Systematic Review of Morbidity and Mortality Meeting Standardization: Does It Lead to Improved Professional Development, System Improvements, Clinician Engagement, and Enhanced Patient Safety Culture?](#) Journal of Patient Safety. 2023. 19:10-97.

Tools and Resources:

Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [The Essentials of Safe Care: System for Learning](#). 2021.

Oliver N, Shippey B, Edgar S, Maran N, May A. [The Scottish centre debrief model](#). Int J Healthcare Simulation. 2023.



Primary Driver:

Leadership to support a culture of safety



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Secondary drivers

Change ideas

Staff wellbeing

Use of effective health and wellbeing conversations to identify and mitigate risks to wellbeing

Prioritise civility through communication and teamwork, e.g. use of TeamSTEPPS

Support job satisfaction through evidence-based interventions, e.g. Professional Identity Development Programme

Access to senior support and discussion for all staff, e.g. through clinical supervision

Evidence and Guidelines:

- Cohen C, Pignata S, Bezak E, Tie M, Childs J. [Workplace interventions to improve well-being and reduce burnout for nurses, physicians and allied healthcare professionals: a systematic review](#). BMJ Open. 2023;13(6):e071203.
- Sabanciogullari S, Dogan S. [Effects of the professional identity development programme on the professional identity, job satisfaction and burnout levels of nurses: A pilot study](#). International Journal of Nursing Practice. 2015;21(6):847-57.
- Tulleners T, Campbell C, Taylor M. [The experience of nurses participating in peer group supervision: A qualitative systematic review](#). Nurse Educ Pract. 2023;69:103606.

Tools and Resources:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. [Team STEPPS. Team Strategies & Tools to Enhance Performance & Patient Safety](#). 2023.
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland. [The Essentials of Safe Care: Staff Wellbeing](#). 2021.
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [Staff Wellbeing Resources](#). 2021.
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES). [Clinical supervision Resource. Supervision for nursing, midwifery and allied health professions \(NMAHP\)](#). 2018.
- NHS Employers. [Health and wellbeing conversations](#). 2023.

2023 SPSP Sepsis driver diagram and change package

Contributors



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SEPSIS RESEARCH
FEAT

The voices of people
with lived experience



Healthcare
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Scotland

SAPPG



Scottish
Ambulance
Service

Working in Partnership with Universities





Expert Reference Group Chair: Dr Gregor McNeill, Consultant Intensive Care Medicine, NHS Lothian

Members of the Expert Reference Group included:

Name	Job Title
Kelly Aitken	Clinical Effectiveness Manager
Dave Bywater	Lead Consultant Paramedic, Medical Director Office
David Craig	Clinical Effectiveness Manager
Dr Simon Dewar	Consultant Microbiologist
Dr Stephanie Dundas	Consultant in Infectious Diseases
Dr Grant Franklin	Consultant in Acute Medicine & Infectious Diseases
Dr Stephen Friar	Consultant in Anaesthesia
Stephanie Frearson	QI Lead Acute
Sue Gillan	Data Measurement & BI
Lucy Ann Glasgow	Improvement Advisor
Michelle Hankin	Clinical Governance and Risk Team Leader
Emma Hearn	Associate Quality Improvement Advisor
Dr Sharon Irvine	Consultant in Medicine and Infection
Dr Edward James	Consultant Microbiologist
Dr Iain Keith	Consultant Physician

Name	Job Title
Frances Kerr	SAPG Project Lead
Alison MacDonald	Area Antimicrobial Pharmacist
Jo McEwen	Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Antimicrobial Stewardship
Dr Calum McGregor	Consultant Acute Physician
Dr Jayne McLaren	Consultant in Emergency Medicine
Catriona McLennan	Clinical Support Nurse
Dr Gregor McNeill	Consultant Intensive Care Medicine
Rhona Morrison	QI Facilitator, Patient Safety
Laura Neil	Lead AHP/ Interim Head of Clinical Governance & Quality Improvement
Prof. Kevin Rooney	Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine
Dr Gavin Simpson	Consultant Intensive Care / Anaesthetics
Maira Sinclair	Clinical Nurse Manager
Mark Smith	Advanced Nurse Practitioner Lead / Practice Development Nurse
Sue Vest	Risk Coordinator / Improvement Advisor
Dr Sarah Whitehead	Consultant Microbiologist and Infection Control Doctor

Contact details



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