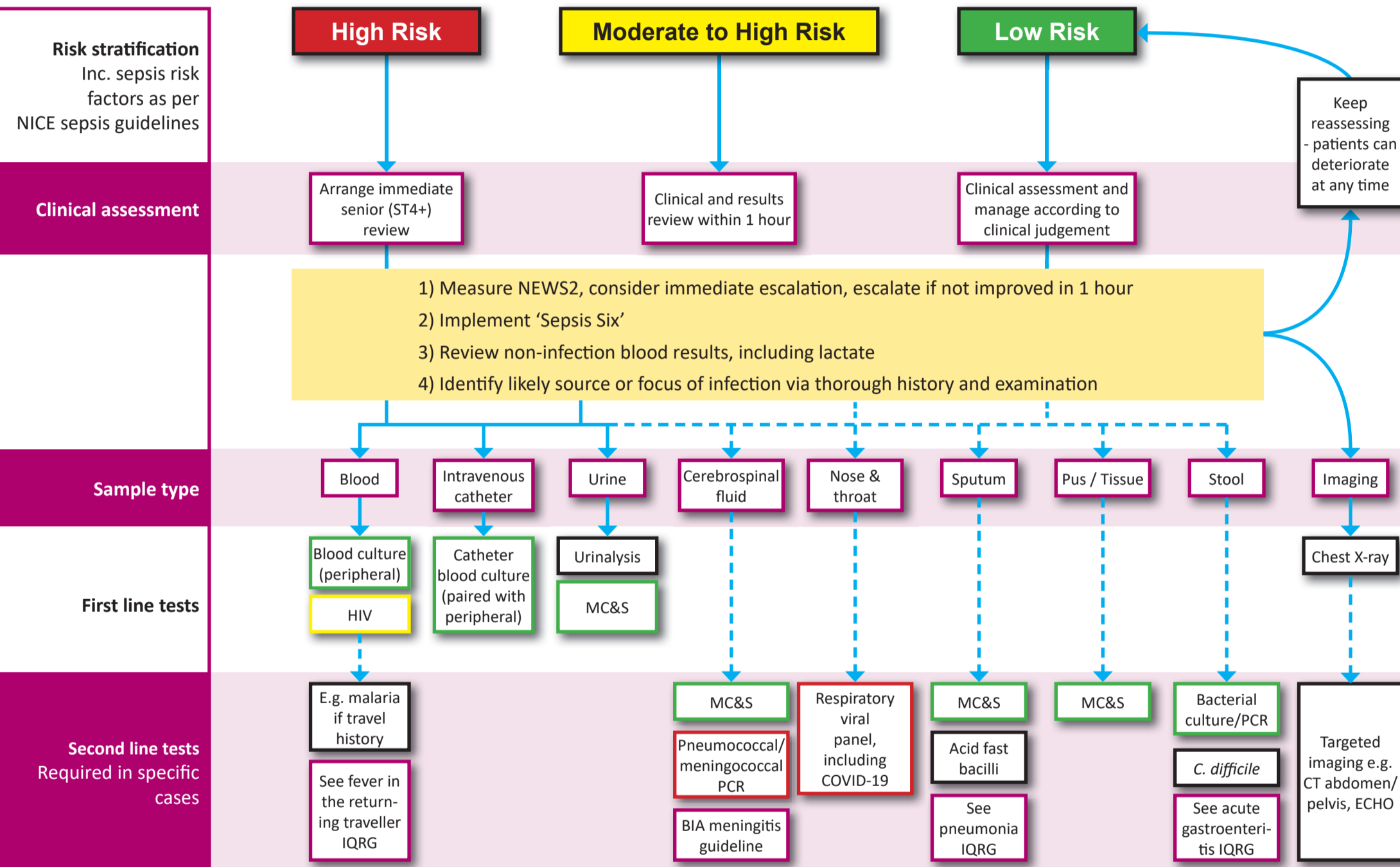


<p>The Sepsis Six</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure senior clinician attends (ST4+) 2) Give oxygen if required 3) Obtain IV access, take bloods 4) Give antibiotics 5) Give IV fluids 6) Monitor (including urine output, NEWS2, lactate) 	<p>NEWS2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate NEWS2 • Infection + NEWS2 ≥ 5 THINK SEPSIS – assess urgently and consider escalation to critical care 	<p>Risk factors for sepsis (see NICE guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremes of age (<1 year or >75 years) or frailty • Recent trauma, surgery or invasive procedure • Impaired immunity • Indwelling devices, people who inject drugs, any breach of skin integrity • Note additional risk factors in pregnancy
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Key to flowchart

All Patients → Selected Patients →

Microscopy, culture & sensitivity (MC&S) Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) Serology Other



Antibiotic considerations

- Follow local sepsis guidance
- **Remember - Start smart, then focus**
- Discuss with microbiology department if complex patient e.g. immunocompromised, previous resistance
- Review antimicrobials within 48 hours
- In the absence of a confirmed microbiological diagnosis, consider the need for antibiotics

Additional considerations:

- Blood culture should always be performed in suspected sepsis
 - Use aseptic technique
 - Collect prior to antimicrobial therapy where possible
 - 20-30ml of blood should be taken per set
 - If a central line is present, take blood both from the central line and from a separate peripheral site when investigating potential infection related to the central line; the peripheral sample should be collected first
- If there is a clear source of infection, cultures of other sites apart from blood culture are generally not needed
- If infection such as intra-abdominal, pelvic, joint or necrotising fasciitis is suspected, refer early; prompt surgical/radiological management is essential
- Consider line removal if line infection is suspected

References

- NICE guideline NG51 (2016). Sepsis: recognition, diagnosis and early management. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng51>
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- Royal College of Physicians (2017). National Early Warning Score (NEWS) 2 - Standardising the assessment of acute-illness severity in the NHS. <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/national-early-warning-score-news-2>
- Public Health England (2015). Start Smart - Then Focus: Antimicrobial Stewardship Toolkit for English Hospitals. Gateway number 2014828. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/antimicrobial-stewardship-start-smart-then-focus>
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