

Galway: GAPP - Galway Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy / Guidelines (GAPP): Neutropenic Sepsis

Neutropenic Sepsis

1. [Any suspicion of neutropenia and fever OR clinical signs of sepsis must be assessed immediately as an emergency](#)
2. **Fever** means temperature $\geq 38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ on one occasion or sustained temperature greater than 38°C .
3. **Neutropenia** means an absolute neutrophil count of less than $0.5 \times 10^9 /\text{L}$.
4. Administer antimicrobials promptly once sepsis is suspected. HSE Sepsis Programme Documents & Resources are available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/ncps/sepsis/resources/>
5. Note **frequent review** is essential. The time frames suggested for addition of additional empiric therapy may need to be shortened if the patient's condition is deteriorating.
6. Consider risk for **fungal** infection and **viral** infection.
7. If the infection is CVC associated - **remove the CVC** .
8. Review previous microbiology for history of colonisation or infection with antibiotic resistant organisms and assess other risk factors for antibiotic resistance. If colonised with Multi-drug Resistant Organisms ([MDRO](#)) including Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE), discuss with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases.
9. Comprehensive Haematology Guidelines are available on QPulse.
10. Summary treatment algorithms:
 - [Initial management of neutropenic sepsis algorithm](#)
 - [Continuing management of neutropenic sepsis algorithm](#)

Refs:

1. *IDSA Guidelines for the use of antimicrobial agents in neutropenic patients with cancer.* [Clin Infect Dis 2011;52:e56-93](#)
2. *GUH Haematology Guidelines for the management of febrile neutropenic patients (QPulse CLN-HAEM-020)*
3. *NICE Neutropenic Sepsis: prevention and management in people with cancer (Clinical guideline 151) 2012*
4. *Adult [Sepsis Form](#) 2021*