SEPSIS KILLS - Paediatrics

A group of clinical experts have been working hard on developing a Paediatric SEPSIS KILLS Pathway. The draft is almost complete and will be piloted in five sites across NSW, these sites will consist of metropolitan, mixed, and rural ED’s. Once the pilot has been completed and evaluated the pathway will be updated to incorporate the recommendations made.

The pathway has been complex in its development, as it needs to be sensitive enough to pick up septic children but not too sensitive so that all children would be commenced on the pathway. The clinical experts were mindful of the Childrens Hospital Westmead fever study (2007) in which approx 17000 febrile ED presentations over 2 years were analysed. Only 0.4% (n=59) were proven bacteraemic or presumed bacteraemic. This study highlights that it is problematic recognising and detecting sepsis accurately in children.

Alongside the Paediatric Sepsis Pathway, blood culture guidelines and empiric first dose antibiotic guidelines are being developed.

The pathway will link closely with Between the Flags and We will keep you informed of the progress of the pilot and subsequent statewide launch.
The SEPSIS KILLS Team will send out a World Sepsis Day pack to each ED, which will contain materials to promote World Sepsis Day. We are really keen to see photographs of your event so we can feature them in the September newsletter. Send them to: lisa.coombs@cec.health.nsw.gov.au