Every pregnant (or recently pregnant) woman and newborn is at risk of an infection that could trigger sepsis. Sepsis occurs when the body's response to infection causes injury to its own tissues and organs.

GLOBALLY, EVERY YEAR:
- Infections are the primary cause of about 35,000 maternal deaths
- Sepsis can contribute to up to 100,000 maternal deaths
- Sepsis kills more than 1 million newborns

If you see a pregnant (or recently pregnant) woman with:
- an infection
- abnormal vital signs
- abnormal laboratory test results
- looks unwell

SUSPECT SEPSIS

STOP SEPSIS!

1. GIVE IV FLUIDS
2. GIVE IV ANTIBIOTICS
3. IDENTIFY & TREAT THE SOURCE OF INFECTION
4. CONSIDER TRANSFER TO SPECIALIZED CARE
5. MONITOR VITAL SIGNS OF THE MOTHER AND FETUS

Sepsis is life-threatening, but when caught early and treated promptly, it can be stopped.
WHAT IS MATERNAL SEPSIS?
Maternal sepsis is a life-threatening condition defined as organ dysfunction resulting from infection during pregnancy, childbirth, post-abortion, or postpartum period.

WHO IS AT RISK?
Any woman who is pregnant, has had a miscarriage or an abortion, or who has given birth is at risk of developing maternal sepsis.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?
Sepsis can take many forms:

- Fever or hypothermia
- Fast heart beat
- Low blood pressure
- Respiratory distress
- Jaundice
- Decreased urination
- Altered mental status

IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE SIGNS, ACT FAST!

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srhr.org/sepsis

STOP SEPSIS!

Global Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis Initiative

World Health Organization
SUSPECT – TREAT – PREVENT:
STOP MATERNAL SEPSIS

**KNOW**
Maternal sepsis is a life-threatening condition defined as organ dysfunction resulting from infection during pregnancy, childbirth, post-abortion, or postpartum period.

**SUSPECT**
Sepsis can take many forms:
- FEVER OR HYPOTHERMIA
- ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:
  - FAST HEART BEAT
  - LOW BLOOD PRESSURE
  - RESPIRATORY DISTRESS
  - JAUNDICE
  - DECREASED URINATION
  - ALTERED MENTAL STATUS

**TREAT**
If you think a pregnant (or recently pregnant) woman has sepsis, **ACT FAST**:
- GIVE IV FLUIDS
- GIVE IV ANTIBIOTICS
- IDENTIFY & TREAT THE SOURCE OF INFECTION
- CONSIDER TRANSFER TO SPECIALIZED CARE
- MONITOR VITAL SIGNS OF THE MOTHER AND FETUS

**PREVENT**
Reducing sepsis-related deaths can be achieved by attention to simple health measures:
- Promote handwashing
- Ensure clean birth practices
- Reduce overcrowding in facilities
- Improve access to water and sanitation
- Strengthen infection prevention and control measures

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