

# DID YOU KNOW?

## FAST FACTS

# TO STOP MATERNAL AND NEONATAL SEPSIS

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**



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

Sepsis is life-threatening, but when caught early and treated promptly, **it can be stopped.**

# STOP SEPSIS!



Global Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis Initiative

# MATERNAL SEPSIS

## 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



**+** ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

FAST HEART BEAT  
LOW BLOOD PRESSURE



RESPIRATORY DISTRESS



JAUNDICE



DECREASED URINATION



ALTERED MENTAL STATUS



**IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE SIGNS, ACT FAST!**

Sepsis is life-threatening,  
but when caught early  
and treated promptly,  
**it can be stopped.**

**STOP  
SEPSIS!**



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Neonatal Sepsis Initiative

# SUSPECT – TREAT – PREVENT: STOP MATERNAL SEPSIS

## KNOW

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## SUSPECT

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## TREAT

If you think a pregnant (or recently pregnant) woman has sepsis, **ACT FAST:**



GIVE IV FLUIDS



GIVE IV ANTIBIOTICS



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## 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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