

## Survey for elucidating potential roles for sepsis diagnostics in the UK NHS

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**Background** Development of diagnostics is best driven by a comprehensive understanding of the clinical need and optimal role of the device within a care pathway.

**Aims** Identification of potential roles for new diagnostic tests to inform future development objectives.

**Methods** A survey was sent to UK NHS doctors and nurses who were involved in the care of patients with suspected sepsis. Questions focused on current care pathways in sepsis, current availability and utility of tests for infection and the unmet clinical needs in this pathway.

**Results** Responses were received from 265 individuals across 68 NHS Trusts. The strongest role for a point of care (POC) sepsis test was as a 'rule-out' test which was favoured by doctors but not nursing staff, who preferred a 'rule-in' test. 67% of respondents indicated that the major cause of delay in caring for suspected sepsis patients was initial identification and flagging of deterioration. Existing blood tests did not greatly increase the confidence of consultants diagnosing sepsis. The majority of those surveyed felt there was a role for a POC sepsis test as they felt it would be quicker.

**Conclusions** There is a need for sepsis diagnostics which are quicker and more specific than existing tests, to inform early identification and management of sepsis patients. Development of sepsis diagnostics should focus on solving these needs.

### Keywords

Survey, development, diagnostic, care pathway, sepsis, point of care.