

Media Release

12 September 2019

Have You Heard of Sepsis?

Sepsis is responsible for about 5,000 deaths in Australia each year - more than our national road toll and common strains of cancer, according to Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Head of Medical Dr Andrew Hooper.

The RFDS is no stranger to the signs of sepsis. Many patients suffering from sepsis across Western Australia require emergency treatment and retrieval with RFDS to specialist centres.

Sepsis occurs when the body responds to an infection with inflammation through its own tissues and organs. Symptoms include slurred speech, extreme shivering or muscle pain, not passing urine, severe breathlessness, and discoloration of the skin.

Dr Hooper regularly encounters patients suffering from sepsis and is passionate in his work to improve recognition and treatment outcomes of sufferers including resuscitation, early antibiotic administration, haemodynamic and organ support, to ensure the best outcomes for patients.

“We provide a critical-care aero medical retrieval service to transport critically unwell patients with sepsis and septic shock, requiring specialist care,” Dr Hooper said.

“Our intensive care capability during retrieval, often over hundreds or even thousands of kilometres, ensures the best outcomes for our patients.”

The RFDS employs a high calibre of healthcare professionals who are specialists in their field to ensure everyone in Western Australia, regardless of their remote location, has access to the best care.

World Sepsis Day is on September 13, raising awareness for the life-threatening condition that impacts 30 million people around the globe each year.

Spread the awareness of Sepsis and visit **Australiansepsisnetwork.net.au** to find out more.

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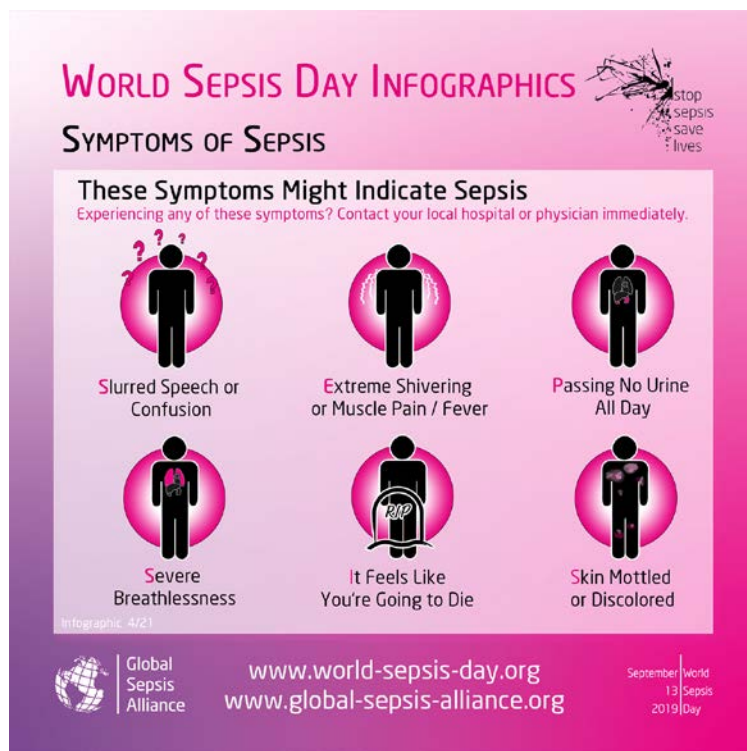


Photo Caption:

The Symptoms of Sepsis. Credit: www.world-sepsis-day.org

Media Enquiries

Rebecca Boni, RFDS Communications Coordinator | Ph: 08 9417 6348 |
E: Rebecca.boni@rfdswa.com.au

Editor's Notes

Facts and Statistics: RFDS Western Operations

- Bases: Jandakot, Kalgoorlie, Meekatharra, Port Hedland and Broome
- Fleet: 16 PC-12 turboprop aircraft and two Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets
- Services: Emergency aero medical retrievals, telehealth, medical chests, rural and remote GP clinics and dental services
- During the last financial year, the RFDS reached and treated 8,682 patients across Western Australia. That's on average 23 men, women and children flown to safety each day.
- During the last financial year, RFDS Western Operations fleet flew a total of 7.8 million kilometres to reach our patients. That's approx. 200 times around the world.
- Each RFDS aircraft is equipped with world-class aero medical equipment to support in-flight emergencies and serve as Intensive Care Units in the sky.
- All RFDS flight nurses are qualified midwives.