



**Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Aonad 7A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar  
Theas, Baile Átha Cliath D08 HN3H

**National Women & Infants  
Health Programme**

Health Service Executive, Unit  
7A, The Dargan Building,  
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin  
D08 HN3H

**Learning Notice: 01/22**

## **Maternal Sepsis**

**Circulation date: May 2022**

**Actions required By Whom:** Hospital Group CEOs, Hospital CEOs and Managers, Clinical Directors, Obstetric Clinicians, Acute Hospitals, Maternity Hospitals and Maternity Units, and Directors of Midwifery and Nursing.

**By When:** For **IMMEDIATE ACTION** in Maternity Hospitals and Acute Hospitals. Please ensure that this is brought to the attention of all relevant staff.

### **Learning:**

With regard to the recognition of sepsis and its protean manifestation in pregnancy and the puerperium, there has been a lot of education around the IMEWS and the importance of documentation of vital signs and escalation protocols. All staff should also be aware of less common presentations of sepsis – where temperature is normal or reduced, where behaviour is altered and where pain is out of proportion to the findings on examination.

Group A streptococcus can be extremely virulent and in some studies leads to 50% mortality.