



The APT–Sepsis Programme



Module 2c:
How to recognise infection



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15-SEP-2023

Module 2c outline

By the end of this module, you should be able to:

1

Describe the meaning of infection

2

Understand how the body reacts to infection

3

Understand the common sources of infection during and after pregnancy

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MODULE 2C: PART ONE

What is infection?

What is infection?

An infection is when our bodies are invaded by another organism which can multiply and cause illness and disease.

The organisms that can cause infection are often microorganisms: these are organisms that are so small that they cannot be seen by the naked eye



How infections develop...

*Can you think of the ways
our body protects us against
infection on a daily basis?*





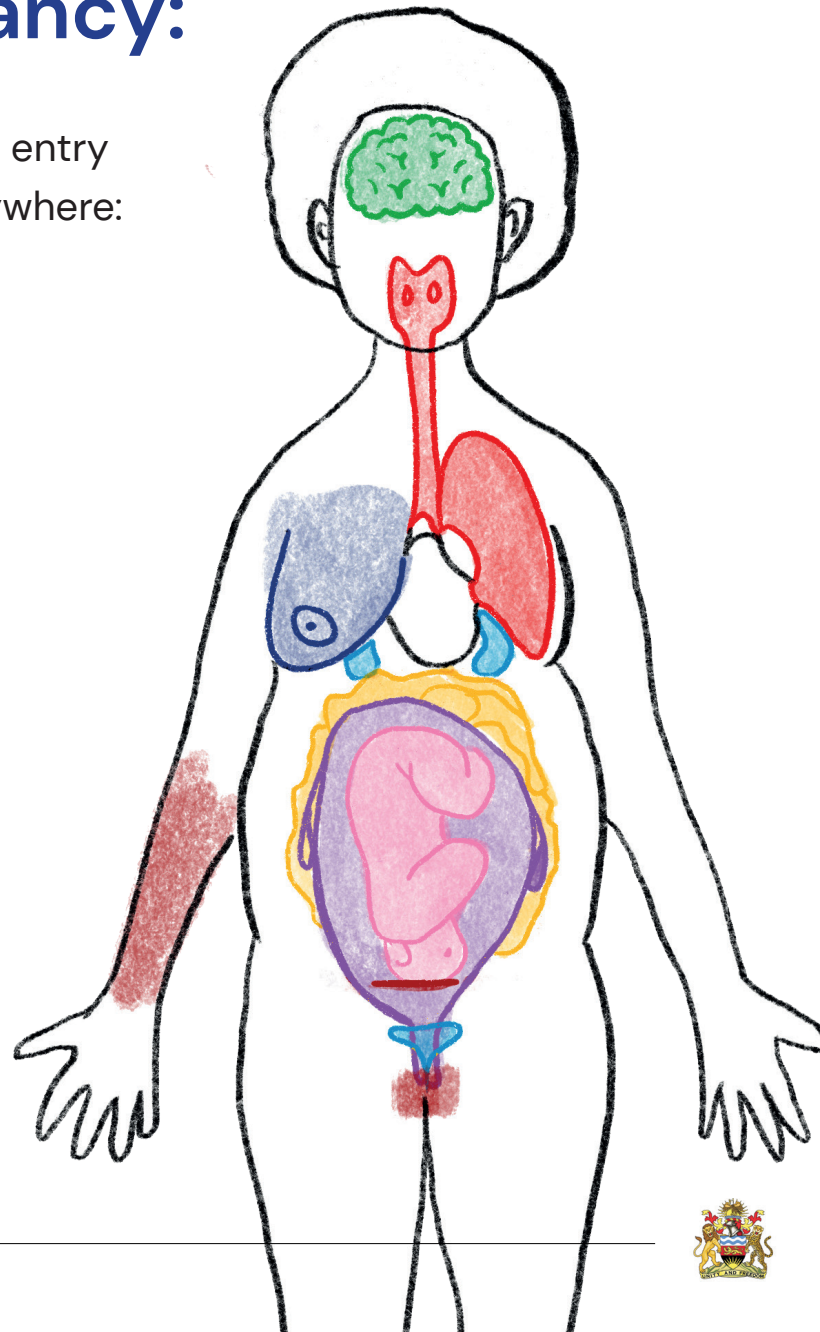
MODULE 2C: PART TWO

What are the common sources of infection?

Common sources of infection during and after pregnancy:

Sites of infection are commonly where there are entry points to the body, but infections can occur anywhere:

- The respiratory tract
- The urinary tract
- The genital tract
- Post-abortion complications
- The skin
- The breast
- The brain and neurological system
- The abdomen



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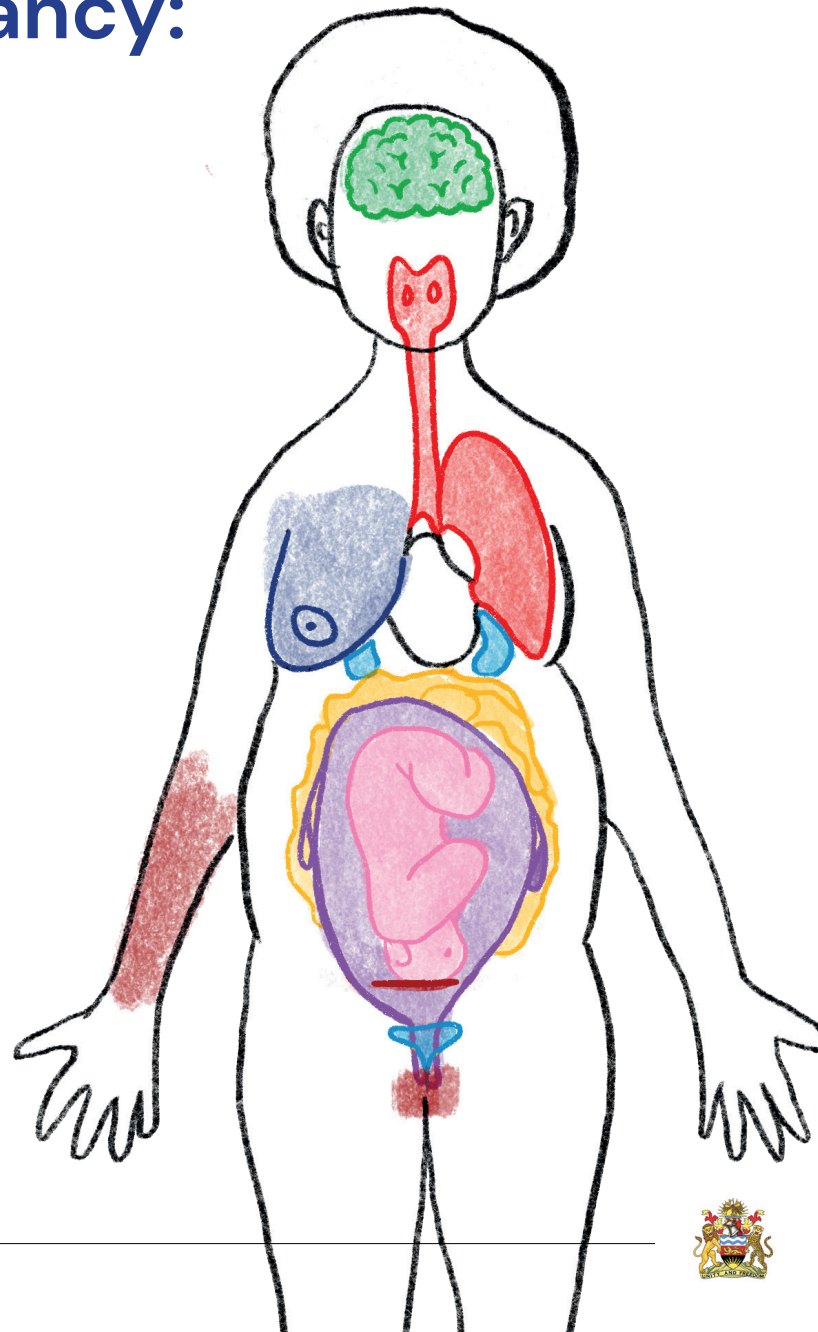
Common sources of infection during and after pregnancy:

Common generalised signs and symptoms of infection:

- Fever
- Shaking / rigors
- High respiratory rate
- High heart rate
- Low blood pressure
- Confusion

Obstetric Signs:

- Offensive discharge / pus
- Abdominal pain
- Redness / swelling / pus from wound



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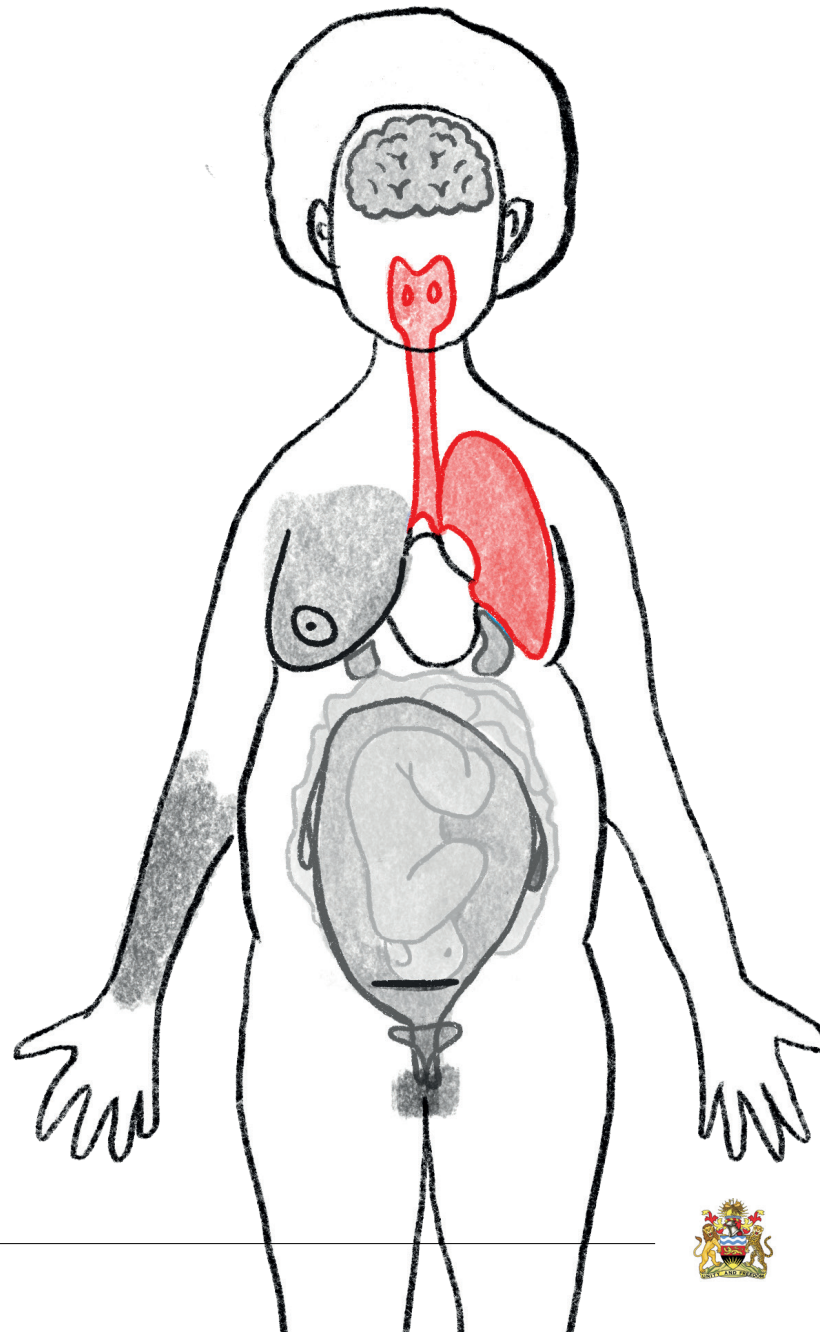


The respiratory tract:

Infections include pneumonia

Common signs and symptoms:

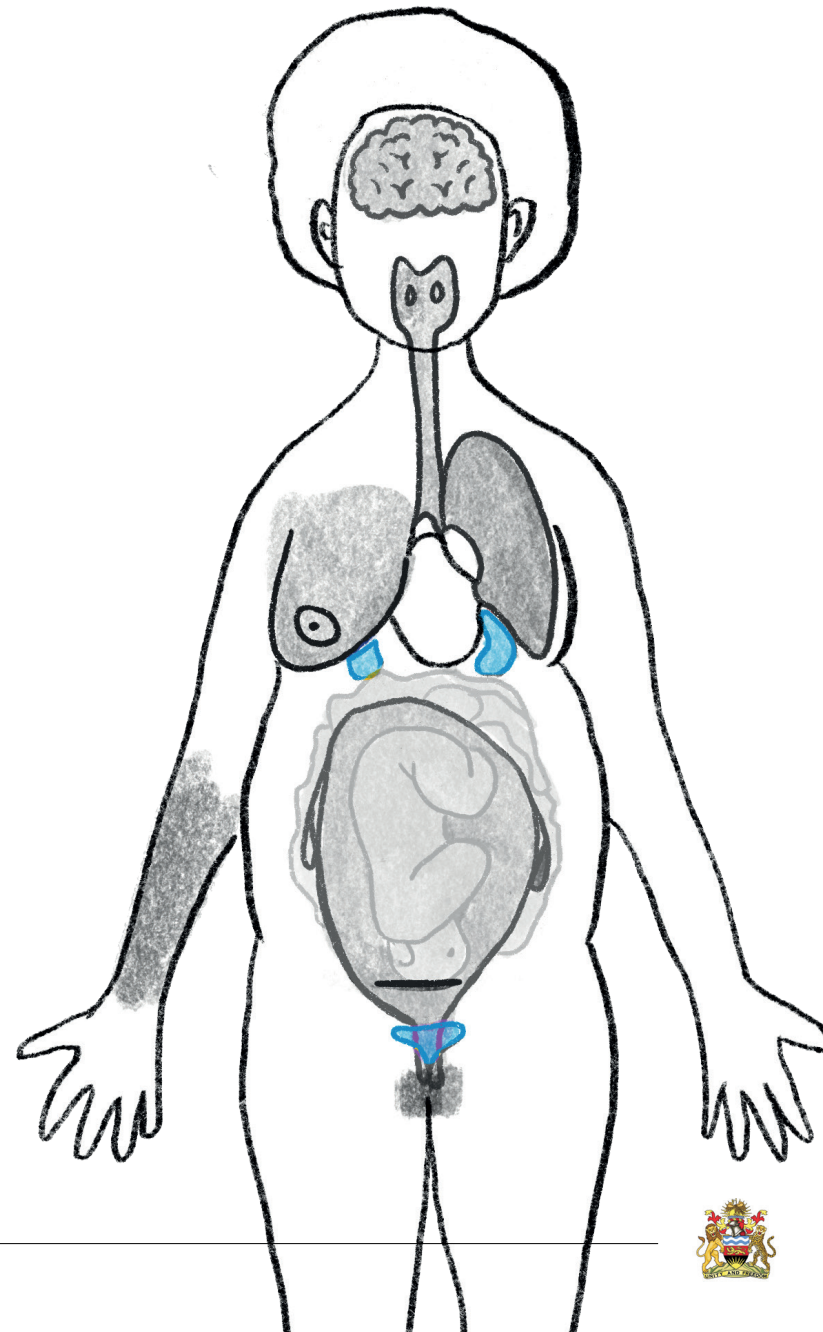
- Shortness of breath
- Cough (often productive)
- Crackles on auscultation



The urinary tract:

Common signs and symptoms:

- Pain / burning passing urine
- High frequency of passing urine
- Suprapubic tenderness
- Haematuria – blood in urine
- Flank pain on effected side



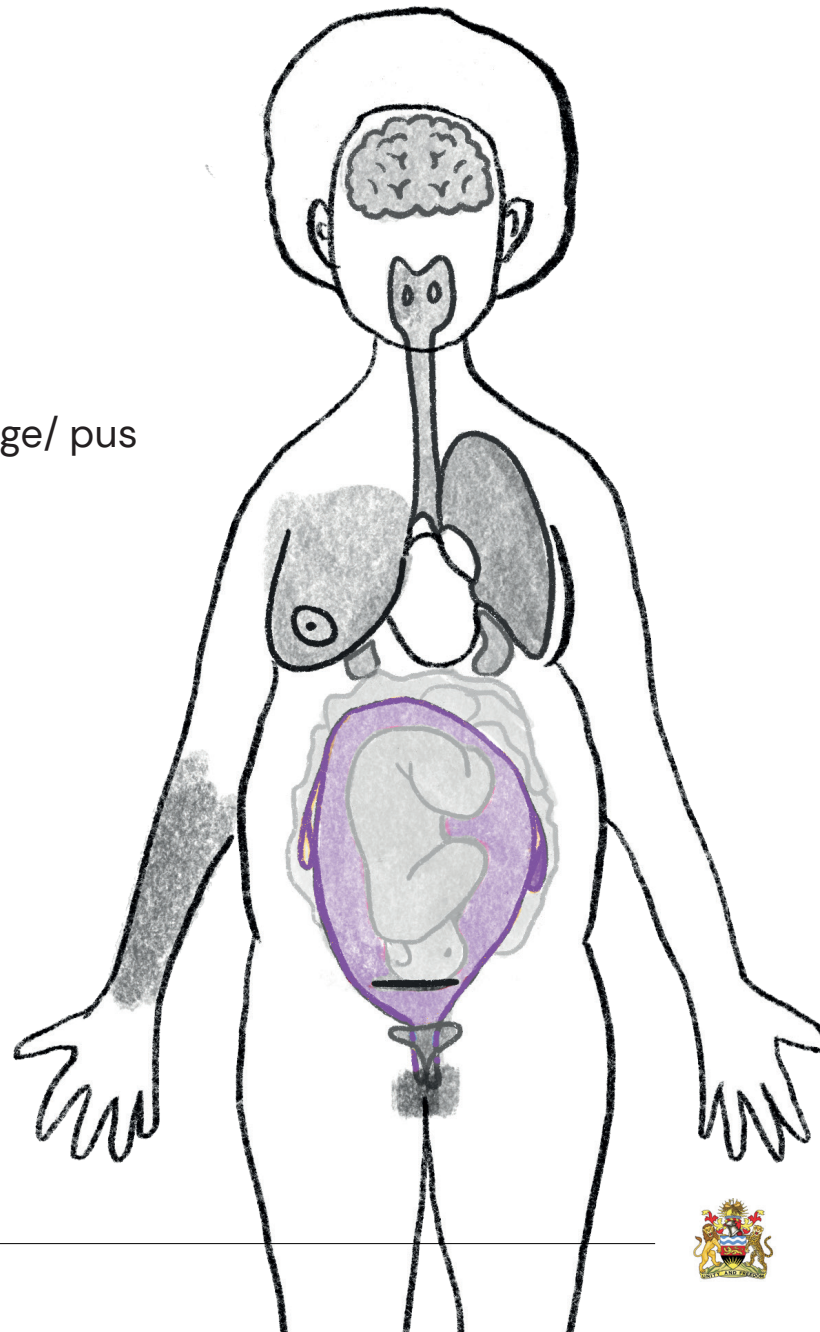
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The genital tract:

Common signs and symptoms:

- Abdominal pain
- Abnormal vaginal bleeding / offensive discharge/ pus
- Foul smelling liquid
- Uterine fundal tenderness



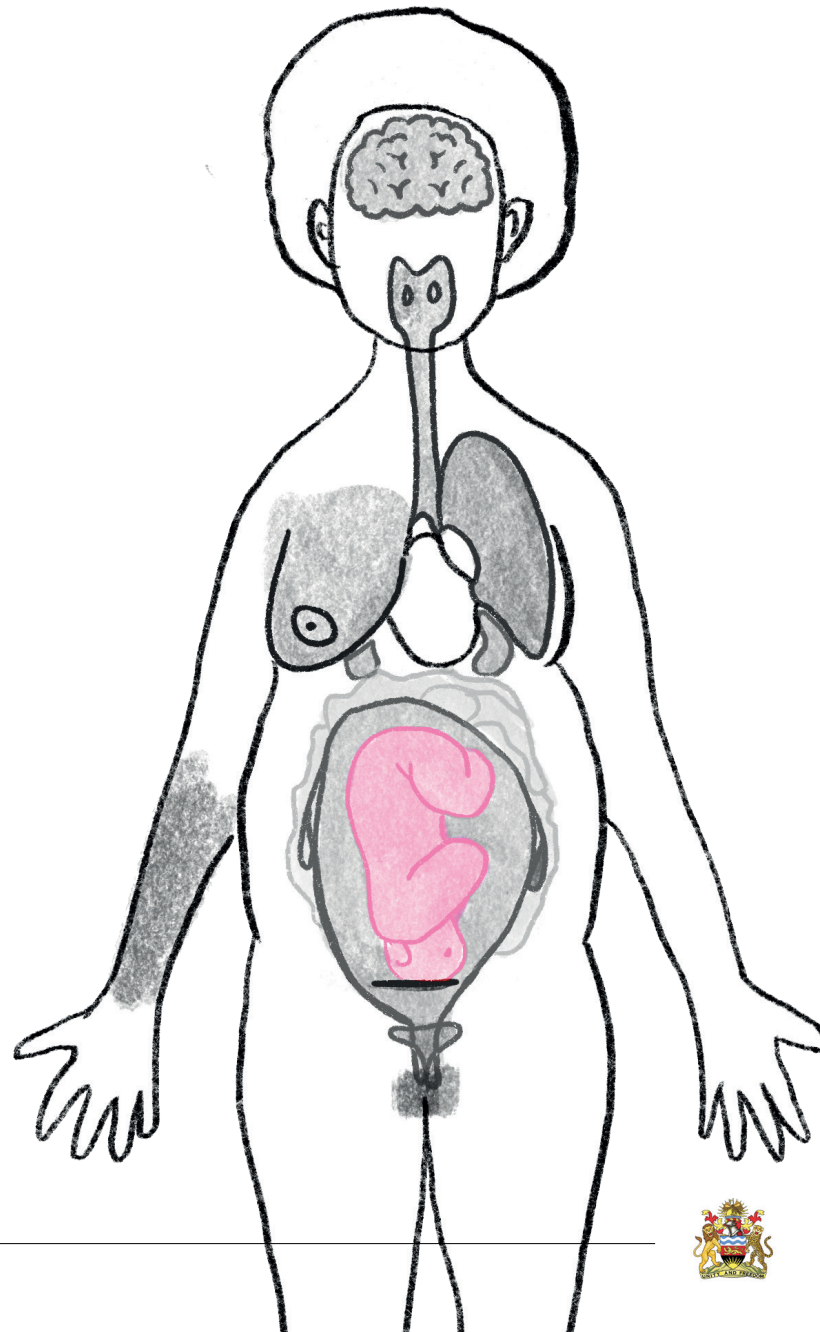
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Post-abortion complications:

Common signs and symptoms:

- Abdominal pain
- Heavy vaginal bleeding
- Foul smelling vaginal discharge
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhoea



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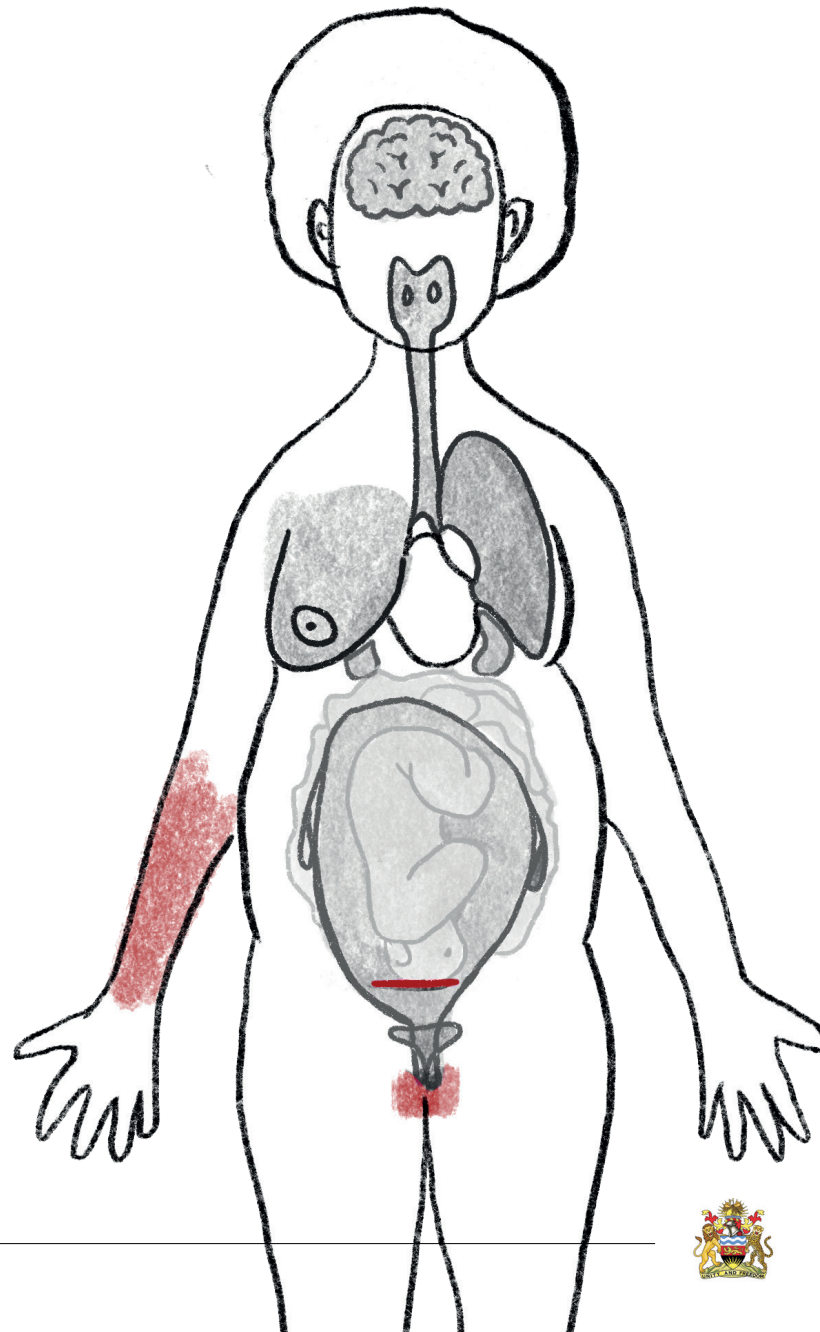


The skin:

Wound infection

Common signs and symptoms:

- Hot, red, swollen skin
- Pain over the infected skin
- Pus coming from a wound
- Foul smelling wound
- Poorly healing wound



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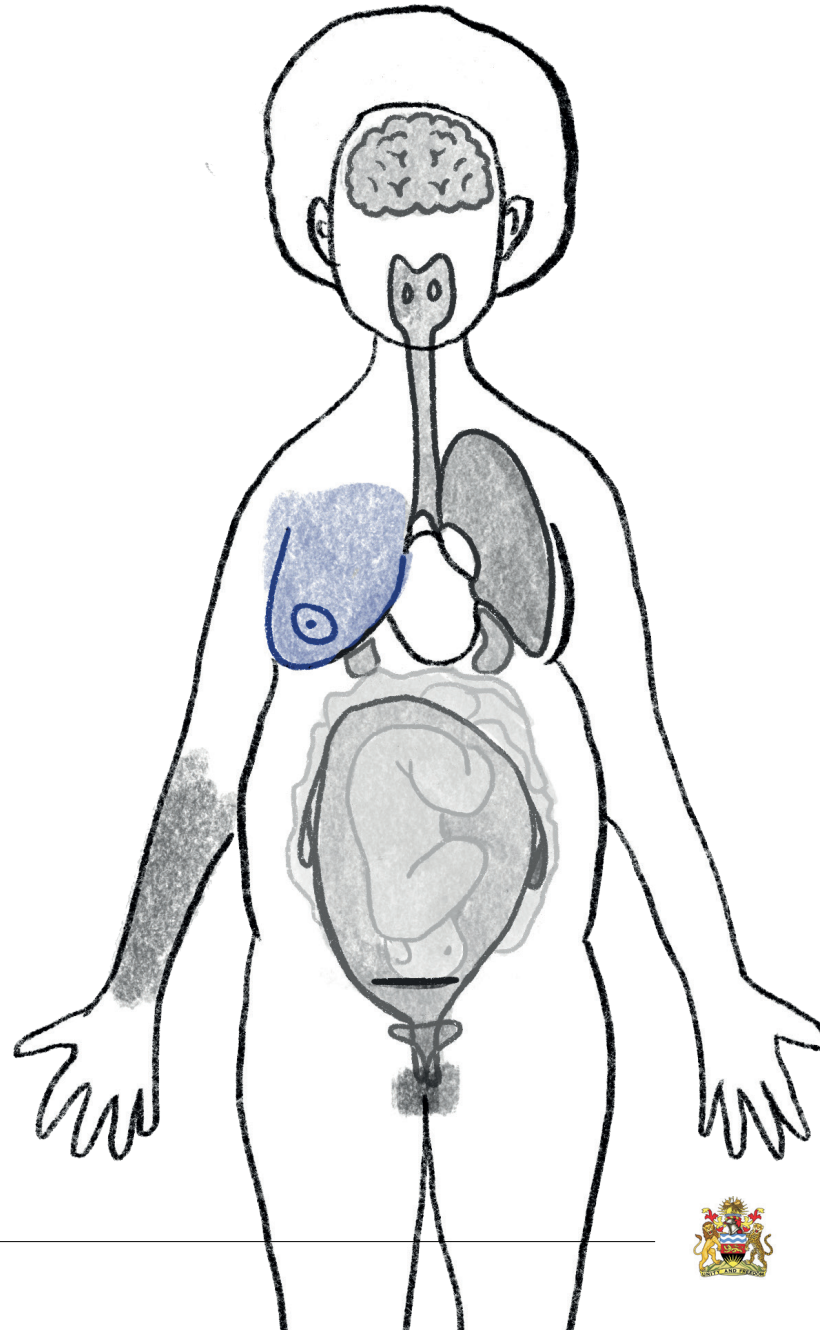


The breast:

Infections include mastitis

Common signs and symptoms:

- A red, hot, painful breast
- A new hard painful breast lump
- Burning sensation (can be either constant or only whilst breastfeeding)
- Discharge from the nipple



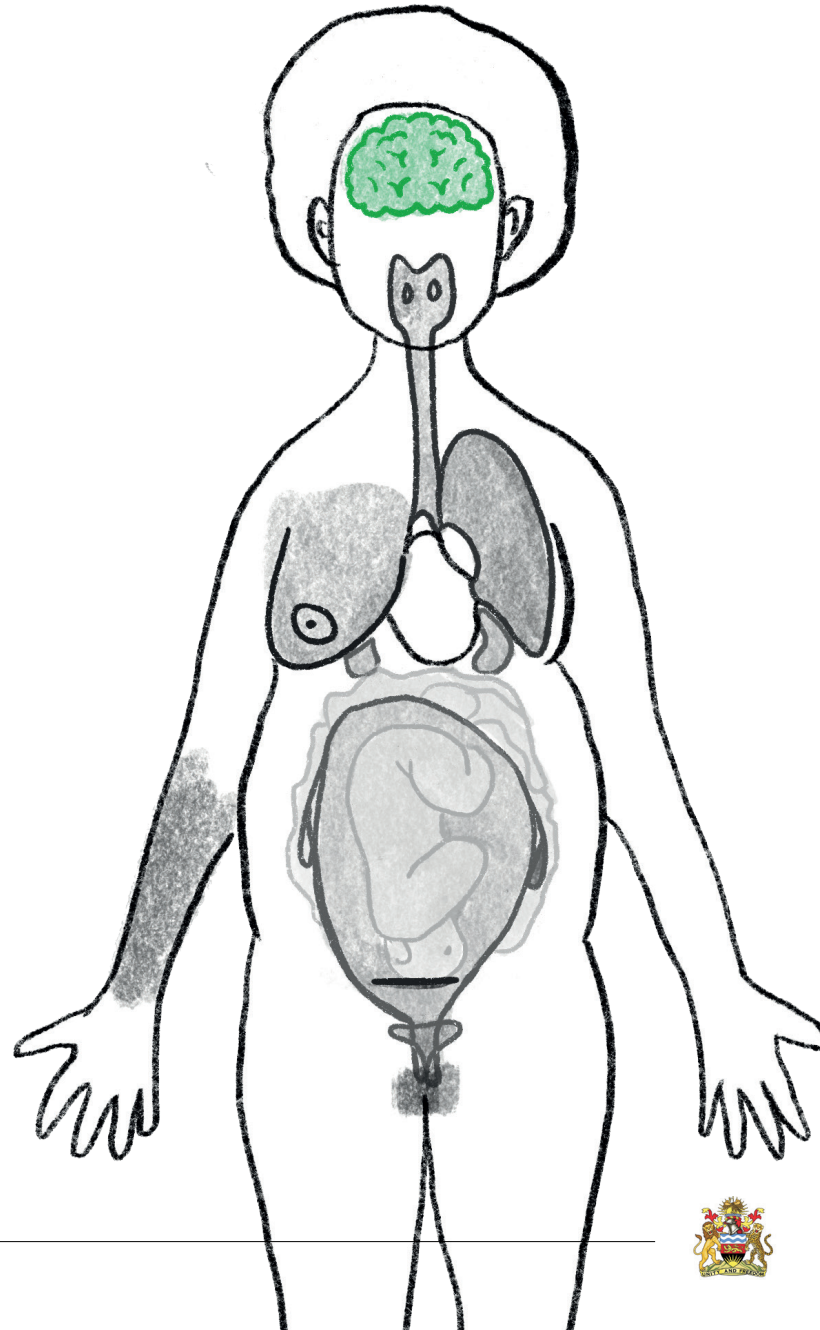
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The brain and neurological system:

Common signs and symptoms:

- Headache
- Neck stiffness
- Photophobia (Light- sensitivity)
- Confusion



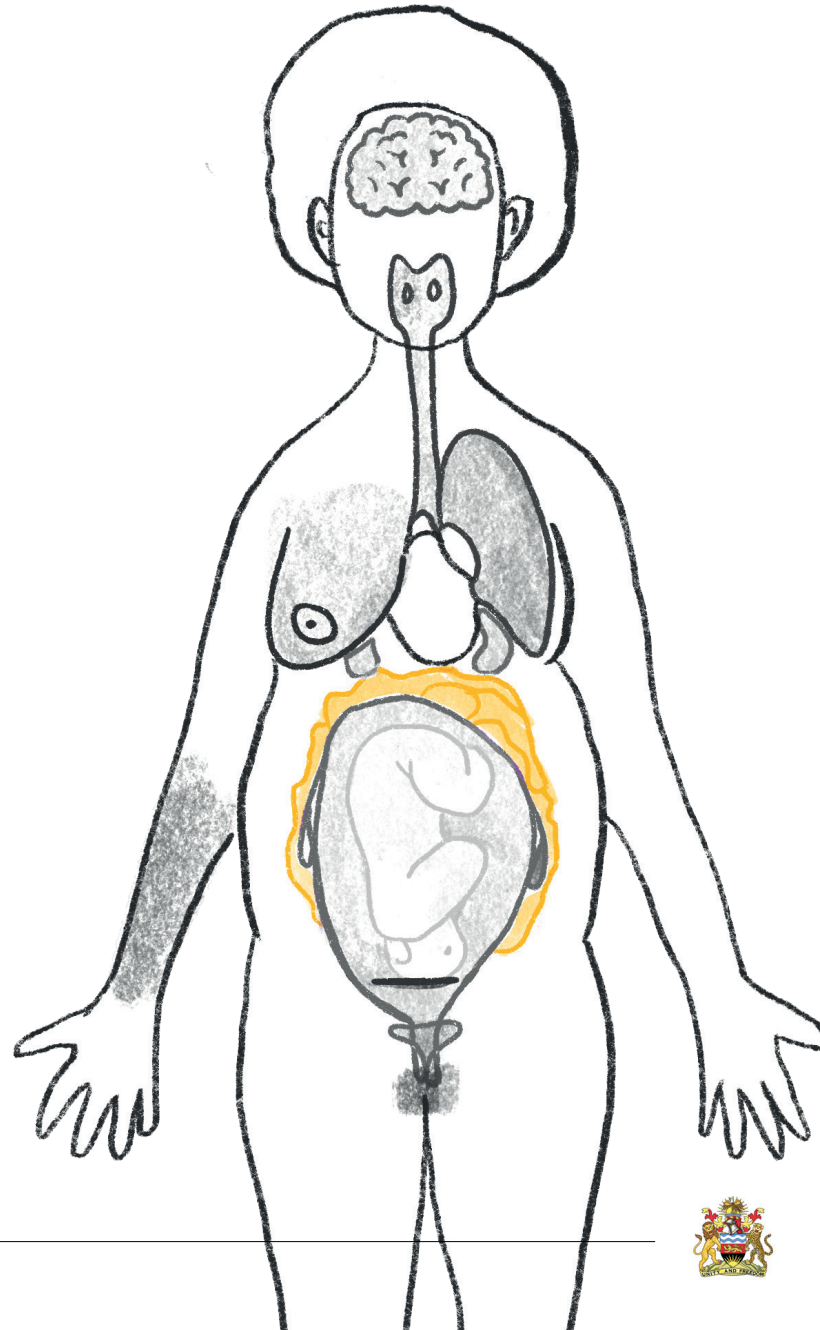
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The abdomen:

Common signs and symptoms:

- Severe abdominal pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhoea (gastroenteritis)
- Swollen abdomen



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Treat infections urgently to save lives



If you see a patient with any of these problems, urgently inform a nurse or clinician

*Recognising and treating an infection early can prevent the infection progressing to sepsis!
This can save lives and prevent disability from infection*

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We have now covered the meaning of infection, how infections progress and the common sources of infection



Let's see what we remember!

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Questions about APT-Sepsis?

Please contact your local central APT-Sepsis hub team if you have any questions or suggestions about the APT-Sepsis Programme

Malawi:

Regina Makuluni: rmakuluni@mlw.mw

Uganda:

Peace Okwaro: POkwaro@idi.co.ug

