

Sepsis Definition

- Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection.*
- * Sepsis is a medical emergency. If it is not treated, overwhelming and life-threatening responses can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.

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Simplified Sepsis Pathophysiology

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Improving the Sepsis 30-Day Mortality Metric

	Description
Numerator	All-cause deaths within 30 days of the start of the index admission
Denominator	Index admissions with a principal diagnosis of sepsis
Denominator Exclusions	Exclude against medical advice (AMA), hospice patients, and transfers during hospital stay
Rate Calculation	Numerator/Denominator
Data Source(s)	Medicare Fee-For-Service Part A claims; Beneficiary Identification Code (BIC)
Baseline Period	Calendar year (CY) 2019

Recognize Sepsis Early

Screen patients for sepsis in the emergency department (ED), on admission, every shift, and with a change in condition.

Utilize sepsis alerts.

Recognition: Confirmed or Suspected Infection Combined With Triggers

Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS)

- Temperature
 - < 36°C or > 38°C
 - < 96.8°F or > 100.4°F
- Heart rate ≥ 90 beats per minute
- Respiratory rate ≥ 20 or partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PaCO2) < 32 mmHg
- White blood cell count > 12k or < 4k or > 10% bands

Quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (qSOFA)

- Altered mentation (more than usual)
- Respiratory rate > 22
- Systolic blood pressure (SBP) < 100

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Recognition: Sepsis Alerts

Evaluating the impact of a computerized surveillance algorithm and decision support system on sepsis mortality.

—Manakata and Claypool *J Am Med Inform Assoc* 2016

- Sepsis-related mortality dropped from 18.1% to 13.2% after sepsis alerts.
- Patients screened using the sepsis CDS* system had 2.1 times lower risk of death compared to pre-implementation period.
- Readmissions after sepsis fell from 19.1% to 13.2%.

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Treat Sepsis Immediately

Consistently utilize standardized order sets based upon the sepsis bundles.

Deploy a rapid response team to assist with rapid treatment of sepsis.

Ensure the most-utilized antibiotics are readily available in patient care areas.

Treatment: Sepsis Bundles

Sep-1	Sep-3 (Hour-1)
1. Lactate	1. Lactate (Remeasure if initial > 2)
2. Blood cultures before antibiotics	2. Blood cultures before antibiotics
3. Broad spectrum antibiotic	3. Broad spectrum antibiotic
4. 30ml/kg crystalloid fluid bolus	4. 30 ml/kg crystalloid for hypotension or lactate ≥ 4
5. Vasopressors if BP doesn't respond to fluids and/or maintain mean arterial pressure (MAP) ≥ 65	5. Vasopressors if hypotension during or after rapid fluids to maintain a MAP ≥ 65
6. Reassess tissue perfusion	
7. Remeasure lactate if initial was elevated	

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Treatment: Antibiotics

Every hour delay of appropriate antibiotics = 7.6% lower survival.*

In the first 12 hours, there is 1% mortality per each 5-minute delay.**

- Draw blood cultures first
- Administer broad-spectrum antibiotics covering the most likely pathogens
- Time is tissue—time to brain for stroke and time to brain for STEMI

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Treatment: Rapid Response Teams

Effect of a rapid response system for patients in shock on time to treatment and mortality during 5 years.

—Sebat et al. *CritCare Med* 2007; 35: 2568-2575

- Unadjusted mortality decreased from 40.0% to 11.8% during the study year.
- Unadjusted mortality decreased from 50.0% to 10.0% for septic shock patients.

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Hospice Referral for End of Life

Hold a patient/family conference for goals clarification based upon triggers or clinician experience.

Consistently utilize standardized order sets for hospice referrals.

HSAG HQIC

Goals Clarification and Triggers

Goals Clarification for Patients

- What is the minimum quality of life you are willing to live with?
- What is the maximum burden you are willing to go through to achieve your minimum quality of life?

Goals Clarification for Families

- Is this what your loved one said they wanted?
- Is this what you think your loved one would want?
- Is this what you want for your loved one?

Life Expectancy With Care	Life Expectancy Without Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Hours to days	<input type="checkbox"/> Hours to days
<input type="checkbox"/> Days to weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Days to weeks
<input type="checkbox"/> Weeks to months	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeks to months
<input type="checkbox"/> Longer	<input type="checkbox"/> Longer

Examples of Non-Critical Care Triggers

Presence of serious illness and one or more of the following:

- New diagnosis of life-limiting illness for symptom control.
- Progressive metastatic cancer.
- Multiple hospitalizations or illness within the last 3 months.
- Difficult to control physical or emotional symptoms such as pain, dyspnea, nausea, etc.
- Conflicts regarding the use of non-oral feeding or hydration in cognitively impaired, seriously ill, or dying patient.
- LACE score ≥ 15.

If the patient has any of the above triggers, consider a patient/family conference for goals clarification.

Examples of Critical Care Triggers

Presence of serious illness and one or more of the following:

- Admission in the setting of one or more chronic life-limiting conditions (i.e., advanced dementia as evidenced by non-independent ADLs, recurrent aspiration pneumonia, non-healing stage 3-4 pressure injuries).
- Two or more ICU admissions within the same hospitalization.
- Failed or prolonged attempt to wean from the ventilator.
- Multi-organ failure.
- Consideration of ventilator withdrawal with expected death.
- Advanced metastatic cancer with poor functional status.
- Consideration of patient transfer to a long-term ventilator facility.
- Hospice care provider/family miscommunication or conflict.
- LACE score ≥ 15.

If the patient has any of the above triggers, consider a patient/family conference for goals clarification.

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Sepsis Definition

- Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection.^{1,2}
- Sepsis is a medical emergency. It is not infection; it is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection. Sepsis can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.

Simplified Sepsis Pathophysiology³

Body invaded by pathogen



Immune response



Vasodilation, capillary leak, blood clotting



Decreased blood flow to organs



Metabolic acidosis



Septic shock



Multi-organ failure

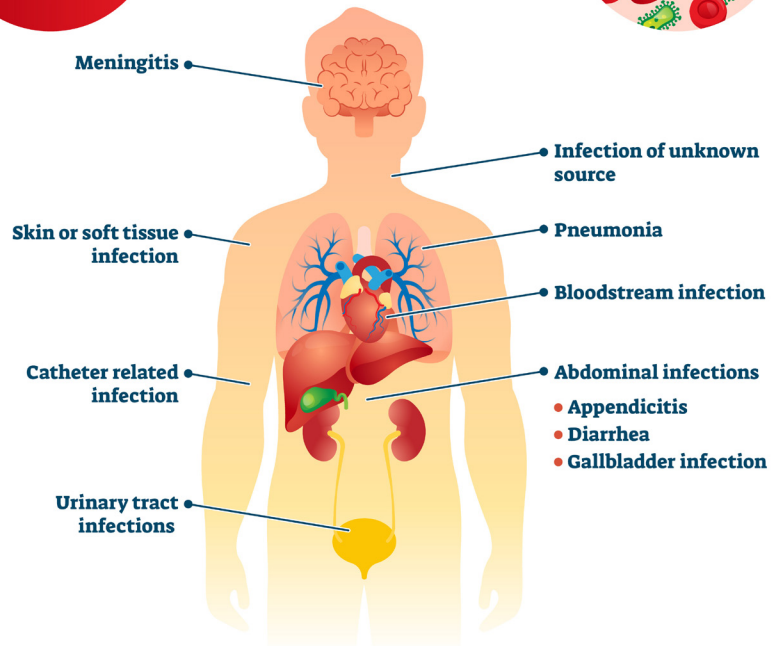
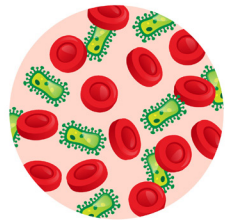


Death



SEPSIS

Sepsis is a potentially life-threatening condition caused by the body's response to an infection



Recognition: Confirmed or Suspected Infection Combined With Triggers

Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS)⁴

- Temperature
 - $\leq 36\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $\geq 38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
 - $\leq 96.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ or $\geq 100.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Heart rate ≥ 90 beats per minute
- Respiratory rate ≥ 20 or partial pressure of carbon dioxide (PaCO₂) < 32 mmHg
- White blood cell count $\geq 12\text{K}$ or $\leq 4\text{K}$ or $> 10\%$ bands

Quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (qSOFA)⁵

- Altered mentation (more than usual)
- Respiratory rate ≥ 22
- Systolic blood pressure (SBP) ≤ 100

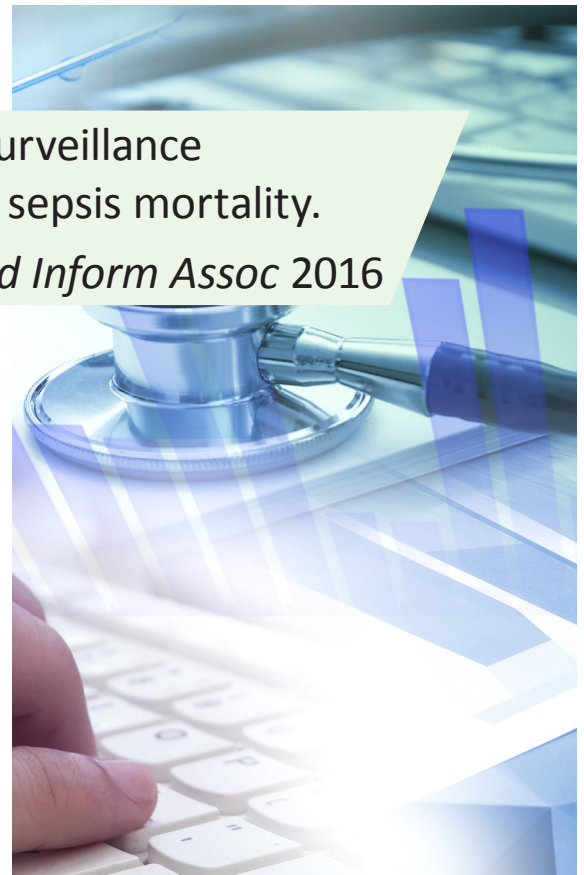
Recognition: Sepsis Alerts

Evaluating the impact of a computerized surveillance algorithm and decision support system on sepsis mortality.

—Manaktala and Claypool *J Am Med Inform Assoc* 2016

- Sepsis-related mortality dropped from 90 to 42 deaths per 1,000 sepsis cases.
- Patients screened using the sepsis CDS* system had 2.1 times lower risk of death compared to pre-implementation period.
- Readmissions after sepsis dropped from 19.1% to 13.2%.

CDS = clinical decision support



Treatment: Sepsis Bundles

Sep-1⁶

- 3 hour
1. Lactate
 2. Blood cultures before antibiotics
 3. Broad spectrum antibiotic
 4. 30mL/kg crystalloid fluid bolus for hypotension or lactate ≥ 4
- 6 hour
5. Vasopressors (if BP doesn't respond to fluids and to maintain mean arterial pressure [MAP] ≥ 65)
 6. Reassess tissue perfusion
 7. Remeasure lactate if initial was elevated

Sep-3 (Hour-1)⁷

1. Lactate
(Remeasure if initial > 2)
2. Blood cultures before antibiotics
3. Broad spectrum antibiotic
4. 30 mL/kg crystalloid for hypotension or lactate ≥ 4
5. Vasopressors if hypotension during or after rapid fluids to maintain a MAP ≥ 65

Treatment: Rapid Response Teams

Effect of a rapid response system for patients in shock on time to treatment and mortality during 5 years.

—Sebat et al. *CritCare Med* 2007; 35: 2568-2575

- Unadjusted mortality decreased from **40.0% to 11.8%** during the study year.
- Unadjusted mortality decreased from **50.0% to 10.0%** for septic shock patients.



Treatment: Antibiotics

**Every hour delay of appropriate antibiotics
= 7.6% lower survival.⁸**

In the first 12 hours, there is 1% mortality per each 5-minute delay.⁹

- Draw blood cultures first.
- Administer broad-spectrum antibiotics covering the most likely pathogen.
- ***Time is tissue***—the same way ***time is muscle*** for STEMI and ***time is brain*** for stroke.¹⁰

STEMI = ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction

Goals Clarification and Triggers

Goals Clarification for Patients	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the minimum quality of life you are willing to live with? What is the maximum burden you are willing to go through to achieve your minimum quality of life? 	
Goals Clarification for Families	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is this what your loved one said they wanted? Is this what you think your loved one would want? Is this what you want for your loved one? 	
Goals Clarification for Physicians	
Life Expectancy With Care	Life Expectancy Without Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hours to days <input type="checkbox"/> Days to weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks to months <input type="checkbox"/> Longer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hours to days <input type="checkbox"/> Days to weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Weeks to months <input type="checkbox"/> Longer

Examples of Non-Critical Care Triggers
<p>Presence of serious illness <i>and</i> one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New diagnosis of life-limiting illness for symptom control. 2. Progressive metastatic cancer. 3. Multiple hospitalizations or illness within the last 3 months. 4. Difficult to control physical or emotional symptoms such as pain, dyspnea, nausea, etc. 5. Conflicts regarding the use of non-oral feeding or hydration in cognitively impaired, seriously ill, or dying patient. 6. LACE score \geq 15. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If the patient has any of the above triggers, consider a patient/family conference for goals clarification.</i></p>

Examples of Critical Care Triggers
<p>Presence of serious illness <i>and</i> one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Admission in the setting of one or more chronic life-limiting conditions (i.e., advanced dementia as evidenced by non-independent ADLs, recurrent aspiration pneumonia, non-healing stage 3–4 pressure injuries). 2. Two or more ICU admissions within the same hospitalization. 3. Failed or prolonged attempt to wean from the ventilator. 4. Multi-organ failure. 5. Consideration of ventilator withdrawal with expected death. 6. Advanced metastatic cancer with poor functional status. 7. Consideration of patient transfer to a long-term ventilator facility. 8. Healthcare provider/family miscommunication or conflict. 9. LACE score \geq 15. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If the patient has any of the above triggers, consider a patient/family conference for goals clarification.</i></p>

LACE = length of stay, acuity, comorbidities, emergency room ADLs = activities of daily living ICU = intensive care unit

Sources: This material was originally created by St. Joseph Hospital Orange, CA. Used with permission.

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