

# The Cost of Sepsis

## What

### Sepsis is a Medical Emergency

Sepsis is the body's response to infection and when left untreated, may lead to serious organ dysfunction or even death. When sepsis is identified and treated early, most patients have positive outcomes.



## Impact

### Human Cost of Sepsis in the U.S.

1.7M

- People diagnosed with sepsis each year (and rising)<sup>1</sup>

270,000

- Deaths per year – more than prostate cancer, breast cancer, and AIDS combined<sup>1</sup>

8%

- Increase in mortality for each hour that treatment is delayed<sup>1</sup>

80%

- Sepsis deaths that could be prevented with rapid identification and treatment<sup>1</sup>

### Economic Cost of Sepsis in the U.S.

2x

- Cost of sepsis hospitalization vs. the average hospital stay<sup>1</sup>

19%

- Sepsis patients readmitted within 30 days<sup>1</sup>



## Requirement

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented specific treatment measures (SEP-1) for patients meeting sepsis criteria within the first three and six hours of presentation.



- If a hospital participates in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program, sepsis outcomes data must be provided to CMS through the Sepsis CMS Core (SEP-1) Measure.<sup>2</sup>



## Action

### Pathway to Excellence

- 1 ENGAGE**
  - Involve all healthcare providers in the sepsis care process
  - Identify physician champions who are willing to speak up about sepsis
  - Share outcomes data with all healthcare providers
- 2 EDUCATE**
  - Implement educational requirements for all healthcare providers regarding sepsis
  - IRe-educate yearly
- 3 EXECUTE**
  - Implement evidence-based processes for the identification and treatment of all patients meeting sepsis criteria, including protocols, checklists, etc.
  - Develop a sepsis committee that meets regularly to oversee processes, protocols, and outcomes
  - Implement system tools such as triggers and alerts to help direct care delivery
- 4 EVALUATE**
  - Compare processes and protocols with current guidelines
  - Track and trend sepsis outcomes
  - Determine the root cause when guidelines are not met

### How Does Your Program Compare?

Sepsis program assessments by Crowe Healthcare have found sepsis frequently goes undiagnosed or undertreated. This is usually due to lack of comprehensive processes, education, and communication between healthcare providers.

Crowe Clinical Risk Services: Linking the dimensions of healthcare delivery to achieve excellence. To learn how a clinical assessment or clinical risk project can support your performance excellence efforts, please contact: Rebecca Welker +1 314 802 2055 [rebecca.welker@crowehrc.com](mailto:rebecca.welker@crowehrc.com)

<sup>1</sup> "Sepsis Fact Sheet 2018," Sepsis Alliance, 2018, [www.sepsis.org/faq/](http://www.sepsis.org/faq/)

<sup>2</sup> Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures v5.3, The Joint Commission, 2017, [https://www.jointcommission.org/specifications\\_manual\\_for\\_national\\_hospital\\_inpatient\\_quality\\_measures.aspx](https://www.jointcommission.org/specifications_manual_for_national_hospital_inpatient_quality_measures.aspx)