

Reducing Sepsis Harm and Death

The Reality

Sepsis is a life-threatening complication of an infectious process that without rapid diagnosis and treatment can quickly progress to tissue damage, organ failure and death.

258,000 Americans die each year from sepsis. Alarming, mortality increases 8 percent with each hour an individual does not receive treatment for sepsis. In rural areas, this is especially problematic as the nearest hospital may be 90 miles away.

Another contributing factor to the complexity of this issue is the symptoms of sepsis may not be recognized immediately or at all. The symptoms are often attributed to other diagnoses contributing to delayed treatment, increasing the risk.

Because the majority of infections progressing to sepsis begin in the community, awareness of the signs and symptoms of sepsis is critical knowledge for patients and their families, along with Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Often these are the individuals first responding to individuals with sepsis.

Awareness of the signs and symptoms of sepsis is critical knowledge that can save lives.

The Project

Great Plains QIN received special funding to work in one rural geographical location in each state to increase awareness and early recognition of sepsis.


EMS professionals are critical partners as they can help prevent sepsis infection or death by knowing the risk factors, identifying the symptoms and initiating life-saving treatment.


For the next two years, the Great Plains QIN team will provide evidence-based tools, resources, training, and subject matter experts to reach rural communities and raise awareness of sepsis as a medical emergency.

We believe, through this concerted effort and partnerships, improvements can be made in early recognition and treatment of sepsis in the targeted communities to reduce progression from sepsis to severe sepsis and septic shock that may result in death.

Source: National Sepsis Alliance Fact Sheet; http://www.sepsis.org/downloads/2016_sepsis_facts_media.pdf



80% 
of patients had symptoms of
sepsis prior to hospitalization

 Risk of death increases
every **hour** that sepsis
goes untreated **8%**

**1 person every
2 minutes** 
dies from Sepsis in the U.S.

Only **55%** of U.S. adults
have heard of Sepsis 

Early recognition and
treatment of Sepsis
saves lives!

Ways to Get Connected

Join our Learning and Action Network to have access to tools, resources, education, subject matter experts and networking opportunities.

The Great Plains QIN was established to carry out the work of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) program within Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. Great Plains QIN uses the collective knowledge and resources of its members to achieve the aims of better health care that include improved health, safer care and lower healthcare costs.

Learn more on our website: www.greatplainsqin.org/sepsis

For more information and to get involved, contact a Great Plains QIN team member:

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This material was prepared by the Great Plains Quality Innovation Network, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 1150W-GPQIN-NE-SEPS-01/1117

