

TRANSFORMING SEPSIS CARE

SEPSIS IS . . .

- The body's **extreme response to an infection.**
- It happens when an infection you already have (like pneumonia, urinary tract infection, skin infection), triggers a chain reaction throughout your body.
- It is **life-threatening.** Without timely treatment, sepsis can rapidly lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death.

BACKGROUND

Timely and appropriate treatment of sepsis can prevent complications and death. Sepsis treatment is expensive and involves prolonged stays in the hospital. Complex healthcare systems and varying clinical definitions create challenges in identification and treatment of sepsis.

In 2017, Sauk Prairie Healthcare found that they were using different definitions and clinical criteria for sepsis. This was causing delays in the early treatment. SPH strives for top decile performance, and therefore put forth resources to improve the workflow.

OBJECTIVE

Sauk Prairie Healthcare set a goal to be at or above the top decile performance nationally on severe sepsis treatment with a target of 80% or better. This goal was set when the average national performance on this measure was 40%.

METHODS

A multidisciplinary improvement team was formed including representatives from acute care, emergency department, leadership, and ancillary departments. Physician and nurse champions spearheaded efforts in emergency and inpatient departments.

The team researched best practices, provided clinical direction, engaged peers, provided performance feedback, and personally tested workflow changes before roll out to others.

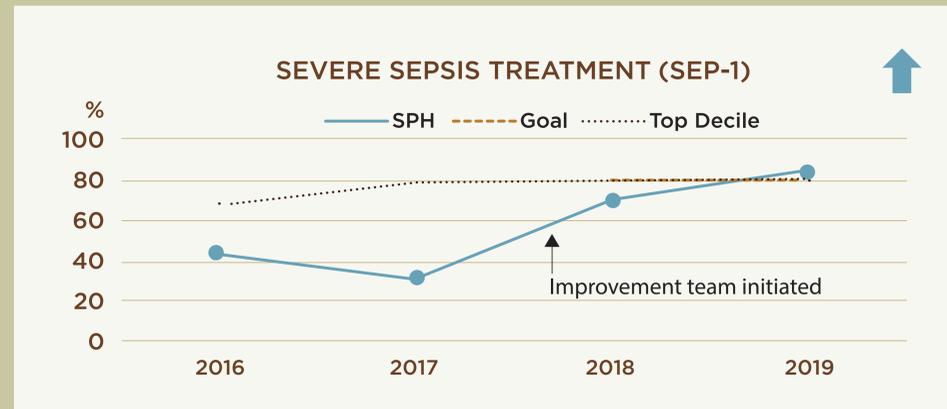
Changes focused on:

- Standardized definition of severe sepsis
- Nurse protocols
- Provider order sets
- Point-of-care tracking tool

RESULTS

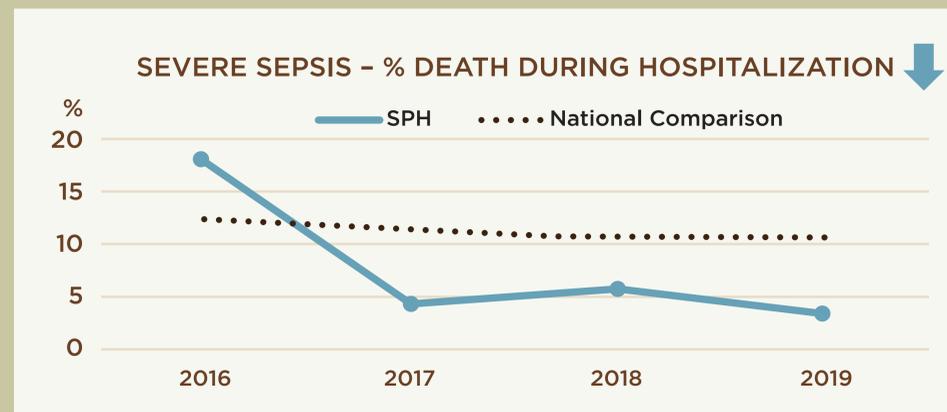
The team made and sustained significant improvements to sepsis care with these efforts, moving to top decile performance.

The severe sepsis treatment bundle shows the percentage of patients who received appropriate care for severe sepsis and septic shock. A higher percentage indicates that more patients received the appropriate care for severe sepsis. The severe sepsis treatment bundle improved from 43% in 2016 to 83% in 2019.



By improving the process and treatment, the rate of mortality due to severe sepsis was lowered. Mortality or the percent of patients with sepsis that died during their hospital stay was lowered from 17% in 2016 to 3% in 2019. An estimated 18 lives were saved over the last three years.

These results continue to be monitored. The improvement team reviews the care provided for each patient diagnosed with severe sepsis to identify opportunities for improvement and maintain top decile results.



CONCLUSIONS

The robust collaboration and communication between clinical units were keys to success in achieving significant clinical improvements. Wisconsin Hospital Association offered improvement coaches and a systematic approach for the improvement team. WHA's physician improvement advisor led education offerings onsite for Sauk Prairie Healthcare's providers and staff. Sauk Prairie Healthcare's team also had many ways to communicate throughout the organization. This included peer-to-peer feedback, discussions of evidence-based practice at daily huddles, unit meetings and medical staff meetings, project boards, and educational sessions.

PROJECT TEAM

Dr. Wendy Ledesma, Hospitalist; Dr. Andrew Culp, ER Physician; Lisa Pickarts, VP Patient Services; Julie Gorman, Director, Emergency Department; David Kussow, Director, Acute Care; Melissa Courchane, Acute Care RN; Julie Paske, Emergency Department RN; Tina Scallon, Infection Prevention Practitioner; Janet Heller, Healthcare Data & Reporting Analyst; Christy Wehler, Performance Improvement Project Analyst and representatives from ancillary departments.

QUESTIONS: Contact Tina Scallon at Tina.Scallon@SaukPrairieHealthcare.org

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?^[1]

1 person dies from sepsis in the US every 2 minutes

1 in 3 patients who die in a hospital have sepsis

Each year, at least 1.7 million Americans develop sepsis

Sepsis is the most expensive cost of hospitalization in the US, costing \$20 billion each year

[1] sepsis.org