Stop Sepsis:  
Sepsis Performance Improvement Project

Glens Falls Hospital  
Glens Falls, NY
Glens Falls Hospital

Who we are: a 410 bed, not-for-profit community hospital nestled in the southern foothills of the Adirondack Mountains, serving a large, six county region, as well as Vermont and Quebec
Hospital Sepsis Team

Interdisciplinary Sepsis Team at Glens Falls Hospital (GFH)

Key members include:
- CNO, VP of Patient Services
- VP of Quality
- Director, Nursing Excellence
- Physicians from our Hospitalist and Intensivist teams
- Patient Safety Officer
- P.I. Consultants
- Clinical RNs
- Nurse Managers
- Clinical Educators
- Clinical Systems Analyst
- Senior Clinical Informatics Nurse
Project Description

The issue: early identification of sepsis results in better patient outcomes; the use of a standardized screening tool and faster implementation of individual sepsis treatment measures leads to better outcomes and reduced mortality.

Goals:
- Improve patient outcomes
- Ensure best practices in the early identification and treatment of sepsis
- Meet/exceed all NYS performance measures regarding the early treatment of sepsis and implementation of the Adult Three-hour and Six-hour Treatment Bundles by Q1 2018
Project Implementation

Multi-pronged approach:
- Pilot of a Sepsis Screening Tool
- Monthly Sepsis Oversight Committee Meetings
- Identification of Unit-based Sepsis Champions (clinical RNs) for each inpatient unit
- Medical & Nursing Staff educational presentations
- Sepsis Awareness Month activities
- Quarterly Sepsis Mortality reviews
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
- Data collection and reporting
Tools & Resources

- Sepsis case data collected monthly utilizing a retrospective chart review methodology
- Cases abstracted for both CMS (through Press Ganey) and NYSDOH (through IPRO)
- CMS = sample of sepsis/severe sepsis/septic shock cases
- NYSDOH = 100% severe sepsis/septic shock cases
- Data entered into the Press Ganey (CMS) database using the Press Ganey abstraction tool, and uploaded into the IPRO portal (NYSDOH) using the HANYS Sepsis Reporting Tool
Successful Strategies & Tips

○ Sepsis Champions
○ Disseminate data in multiple ways: committees, nursing unit-based councils, safety huddles, bulletin boards, newsletters
○ Sepsis quick reference “Badge Buddies”
○ Interdisciplinary collaboration is key; partner with Pharmacy, Lab, Nursing, Medical Staff, Senior Leaders, others key stakeholders as needed
○ Communication is critical
○ Communicate in as many ways as possible: E-mail blasts, Clinical Practice Alerts, posters
○ Interdisciplinary Sepsis Teaching Day planned for 2018
Key Lessons Learned

- Communication is key!
- On-going education
- Sepsis Awareness Month activities help promote awareness
- What we did: “Stop Sepsis” walk; educational booth for staff and the public; distribution of sepsis ribbons/badge buddies
- Robust Antimicrobial Stewardship Program has improved adherence to timely administration of broad-spectrum antibiotics and timely blood cultures prior to antibiotics due to the work and oversight of a dedicated Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist and team.
Challenges & Barriers

**CHALLENGE**

- 1. Lack of awareness related to timing regarding early identification & implementation of treatment bundles
- 2. Lack of knowledge regarding early symptom recognition
- 3. Fall-out in the timely remeasurement of lactate (initial lactate >2mmol/L)

**SOLUTION**

- 1. Education is given to providers, nurses, patient care assistants on an on-going basis.
- 2. The Sepsis Screening Tool assists nurses in early identification of sepsis.
- 3. P.I. Consultants collaborated with lab to change reflex time for repeat lactate to *4.5 hrs after initial lactate level drawn* to remain within the optimal 6-hour time window.
Outcomes & Data

- From 2016 Q2 through 2017 Q1, mortality rates at GFH were lower overall than NYS.

- For 2016, GFH exceeded NYS performance benchmarks for the following treatment measures: Timely lactate level, timely blood cultures prior to antibiotics, timely administration of broad-spectrum antibiotics, and timely remeasurement of lactate.

- For 2017 Q1, GFH outperformed NYS for the following individual sepsis treatment measures: timely initial lactate level collection, timely blood culture prior to antibiotics, timely antibiotic administration, timely vasopressor administration, and timely remeasurement of lactate (>2 mmol/L).
Glens Falls Hospital Performance Data

Sepsis Measures for Non-Transferred Patients Q1 2017 - Glens Fall Hospital vs. Statewide *

Steps for Hardwiring & Spread

- Early identification using Sepsis Screening Tool
- Initiation of Adult Sepsis Protocol that contains 3 and 6 hour treatment bundles
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Program
- On-going annual education
- On-going updates to the Project Manager, Executive Sponsor, other Stakeholders
Contact Information

SAY SEPSIS, SAVE LIVES

- For more information, please contact Lori Van Aken, MS, RNC-OB, P.I. Consultant Quality Management at (518) 926-3422
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9/13/17 World Sepsis Day: Stop Sepsis Walk