

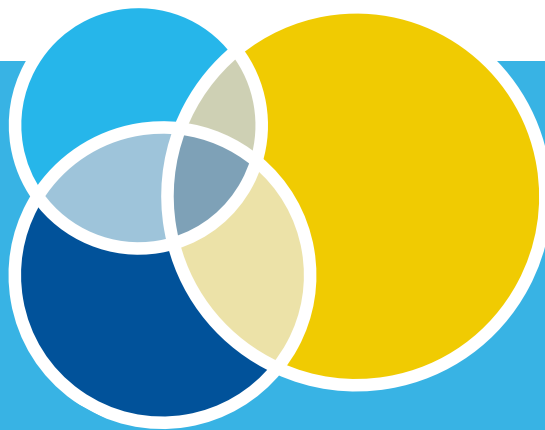


**Quality Improvement
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CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

SUPERIOR HEALTH
Quality Alliance

2023 EARLY RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF SEPSIS TOOLKIT FOR HOME HEALTH CARE SETTINGS **Program Outline**



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PROGRAM OUTLINE

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OVERVIEW

This toolkit is a resource to assist health care organizations in implementing critical infection prevention and control measures to improve patient sepsis outcomes. Additionally, the program focuses on clinical indicators in the early recognition and management of sepsis within the home health care setting. It is designed to provide evidence-based and best practice education on protocols and tools to improve care processes to prevent the development of sepsis for high-risk patients and identify patients through standardized screening with severe sepsis to provide timely and effective treatment.

The toolkit program is intended to be implemented from an interactive and integrated team approach with all home health professionals, including home health aides. Each agency must have a team identified to perform this scope of work. Agency teams should include critical stakeholders who actively participate in quality improvement. Stakeholder examples include, but are not limited to, the clinical manager, quality personnel, educator, infection preventionist, and frontline clinical staff. Additionally, agency participants should seek approval and include their governing board in any quality improvement work related to this toolkit. Other recommended processes for success include:

- Teamwork through action plans provided in a specified timeframe
- Assessing current infection prevention practices
- Assessing current knowledge of sepsis
- Educating staff on infection prevention and control
- Educating staff on sepsis, screening and management processes
- Implementing best practice infection prevention for both staff and patients
- Implementing a sepsis screening process
- Implementing a process for the recognition and management of identified sepsis
- Collecting defined process and outcome data

We provide the program tools of best evidence to prevent infection, measure and report sepsis treatment, and follow patient outcomes. Tools provided include both agency staff sepsis screening and patient-caregiver self-monitoring. The protocol contains a checklist of criteria to monitor as early warning signs that the infection may be progressing to severe sepsis and/or septic shock. As part of the performance improvement project, your agency can use the “Severe Sepsis Screening Tool Audit” form to determine if appropriate responses were followed when sepsis was suspected.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF TRAINING MATERIALS

To effectively educate and train health care staff within your agency on sepsis using this toolkit, we suggest following these steps:

1. Identify the education and training coordinator within your agency who is the primary contact
2. Print the following materials before accessing the education session—one copy of each per person.
 - a. Sepsis Education Pre-Test—to be completed by staff before the first meeting and brought with them.
 - b. Sepsis Educational Slides—Definitions and Early Recognitions and Management of Sepsis Program presented by a facilitator.
 - c. Sepsis Education Post-Test—to be completed by staff after viewing the education session.
 - d. Sepsis Training Evaluation Form—to be completed by staff after the training.
3. Staff participation in this training should complete each form at the appropriate time during the training. Pre- and Post-tests should be returned to the education and training coordinator.

TRAINING MATERIALS

- a. Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis Program [Participation Agreement Form Template](#)
 - i. This form briefly describes the design, agency expectations, expected results, and program education benefits. It also includes a “Call to Participate” section, which identifies the agency name and leadership agreeing to champion the program. This form can be used to encourage accountability in the program.
- b. Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis [Agenda Template](#)
 - i. In its current format, this template can be used as the agenda for introducing the sepsis program or modifying each learning session. It includes a suggested timeline for 1.5-hour meetings. It should be used throughout the program.
- c. Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis Program Slides Meetings 1
 - i. [PowerPoint Slides](#)
 - ii. This PowerPoint presentation contains useful action items at the beginning and end of the presentation for the facilitator as they begin planning for their sepsis program. It discusses the roles of the participants and includes an action plan for early recognition and management of sepsis. It also contains the pathogenesis of sepsis, statistics, and identifies educational resources. This PowerPoint presentation should be used to introduce the sepsis program.

- d. Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis Program Slides Meetings 2
 - i. PowerPoint Slides
 - ii. This presentation reviews implementation strategies and defines metrics for sepsis screening. It begins with a round-robin in which the participants share the results of their action plan. There are also recommendations and reviews of patient education materials. This presentation should be used to review and plan for the next steps in the sepsis program.
- di. Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis Program Slides Meetings 3
 - i. PowerPoint Slides
 - ii. This presentation provides an overview of infection prevention strategies for pneumonia, urinary tract infections and wounds. It begins with a round-robin in which the participants share the results of their staff and family education plans. There are also instructions on how to complete a current state assessment related to prevention practices.
- dii. Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis Program Slides Meetings 4
 - i. PowerPoint Slides
 - ii. This presentation reviews the program objectives and expectations following the training. Participants share their progress, including implementing the sepsis screening tool, education plans, and the results of the current state assessments. There are also instructions on the sepsis screening data collection following the program.
- diii. Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis [Action Plan Template](#)
 - i. This action plan aligns tasks with ownership and timelines. It also measures the progress of each task. It should be used at the beginning of the program and then updated through each program phase.
- div. Infection Prevention Current State Assessments
 - a. [Wound Infection](#)
 - i. This evaluation is used to assess policies and audits pertaining to wound infection prevention. It should be introduced during meeting three and utilized throughout the sepsis program
 - b. [Pneumonia](#)
 - i. This evaluation is used to assess policies and audits pertaining to PNA prevention. It should be introduced during meeting three and utilized throughout the sepsis program
 - c. [Urinary Tract Infection](#)
 - i. This evaluation is used to assess policies and audits pertaining to UTI prevention. It should be introduced during meeting three and utilized throughout the sepsis program

TRAINING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- a. **Sepsis Education Pre-Test**
 - i. The pre-test should assess the participants' knowledge before beginning the sepsis program meeting one presentation. It is helpful for both the facilitator and the participants.
- b. **Sepsis Education Post-Test**
 - i. The post-test should be used to assess the participants' knowledge after the sepsis program meeting one presentation. It is helpful for both the facilitator and the participants.
- c. **Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis Program Video Links**
 - i. The facilitator of the sepsis program can use video links to get a better understanding of the author's goals and areas of emphasis during the development of the program. They can also be used as a reference for participants in the program.
[VIDEO 1: Sepsis: Emergency](#)
[VIDEO 2: Sepsis in Older Americans](#)
[VIDEO 3: Faces of Sepsis](#)
- d. **Early Recognition and Management of Sepsis [Program Evaluation Template](#)**
 - i. The evaluation should be used to assess the effectiveness of the Meeting 1 Presentation of the sepsis program. It can also be modified for use in future evaluations.

SEPSIS TOOLS

- a. **Severe Sepsis Screening Tool Assessment Form**
 - i. The screening tool is used to identify patients upon admission, at each visit and PRN upon condition change.
- b. **Patient and Family Education Tools**
 - i. These tools should be passed out to patients to supplement face-to-face education.

RESOURCES

The resources page contains all the reference information used to develop the sepsis program. It can be used to research data and obtain additional study materials for participants and patient education handouts.

- a. Sepsis.org
- b. [Surviving Sepsis Campaign](#)
- c. [IPRO Sepsis Toolkit Information](#)

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