Engaging Hospital Leaders in Sepsis Prevention, Identification, and Management

Implementation Toolkit
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Diagnostic Excellence Program

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Background

In the United States, there are approximately 1.7 million sepsis hospitalizations annually.¹ As many as one in two hospital deaths is associated with sepsis.² The economic burden of sepsis in hospitals ranks highest of all disease state admissions,³ accounting for more than $40 billion annually in Medicare costs alone.⁴

Because a hospital’s fiscal health and reputation are directly affected by sepsis and septic shock, it is essential to engage hospital leadership in analyzing and addressing the impact of sepsis through prevention, early identification, and management.

Numerous barriers can prevent hospital leaders from implementing evidence-based practices to address sepsis, including the inability to envision how recent evidence applies in local hospital contexts.⁵

This toolkit is designed to outline a multifaceted approach to engaging hospital leaders in sepsis prevention, identification, and management and to provide tools and resources for doing so.
## Engaging Hospital Leaders

Effective engagement of hospital leaders in sepsis prevention, identification, and management follows a multistep process involving:

1) Establishing a mandate for change that aligns with overall hospital objectives

2) Cultivating trust with hospital leaders by involving key opinion leaders and engaging with governing bodies

3) Creating a stakeholder-driven vision of the future that builds on local hospital strengths

Each of these steps can be facilitated by:

1. effective communication strategies, such as policy briefs

2. resources to facilitate change, such as digital educational materials

For example, policy briefs could be presented to hospital leaders highlighting cost-effective opportunities for informatic streamlining to improve sepsis prevention, identification, and management.

Some tools for developing effective communication strategies and resources to facilitate change are shown on the next page.
Implementation Strategies

Here are some resources recommended by Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) subject matter experts to help you engage hospital leaders in sepsis prevention in your ICU:

**Tools**


**Literature**


**Learning**

Learn More

SCCM Diagnostic Excellence Program
Using Education and Technology for Accurate and Rapid-Cycle Sepsis Diagnosis
sccm.org/diagnosticexcellence

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References


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