vizient.

Fighting sepsis: a time-sensitive disease

Learn how Vizient members implemented leading practices to save lives, reduce readmissions and decrease costs.

Sepsis is the most common, costly and deadly diagnosis in U.S. hospitals. It is also time-sensitive: For every hour that passes, the risk of patient mortality increases. Despite the life-threatening implications of becoming septic, only 55 percent of U.S. adults have heard of this condition.[1]

Opportunity

The facts and industry data surrounding sepsis are well-known by Vizient™ members, and because of their commitment to continually improve patient care, 72 organizations joined the collaborative. Representing a broad spectrum of academic and community hospitals, each participating organization selected a sepsis improvement opportunity. Members were encouraged to not only consider projects that encompassed the entire continuum of care, including pre-, acute- and post-hospital recognition of sepsis, but also to work with emergency medical responders and skilled nursing facilities in their respective communities.

Ten performance metrics were used to monitor improved performance during the collaborative (Table 1).

Table 1. Sepsis performance metrics

Total sepsis	Septicemia/simple sepsis (overall)
Severe sepsis (overall)	Septic shock (overall)
Septicemia POA	Septicemia not POA
Severe sepsis POA	Severe sepsis not POA
Septic shock POA	Septic shock not POA

POA = present on admission

Key strategies and findings from the collaborative

Successful intervention strategies* taken from the members' organizational work as well as from monthly collaborative discussions include:

- Screen every patient for sepsis during every shift
- Recruit critical care physicians as sepsis champions
- Conduct focus groups with front-line staff and providers to identify process barriers and solutions
- Create provider-friendly order sets

*All elements are addressed in the project final report and featured member case studies.

283

Member efforts through the sepsis collaborative saved 283 lives

Overall collaborative results[2]

- In aggregate, collaborative participants avoided 6,421 patient days and saved 283 lives

- Total collaborative potential cost avoidance was more than $14.7 million

  - Assumes a cost per patient day for nonprofit hospitals of $2,289[3]

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[1] Sepsis Alliance responds to study revealing sepsis as number one cause of hospital readmissions. Sepsis Alliance website. https://www.sepsis.org/sepsis-alliance-news/sepsis-alliance-responds-to-study-revealing-sepsis-as-number-one-cause-of-hospital-readmissions/. Published January 25, 2016. Accessed September 28, 2017.

[2] Statistics based on availability of data for 69 of 72 participating members.

[3] Rappleye E. Average cost per inpatient day across 50 states. Becker's Hospital Review website. https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/average-cost-per-inpatient-day-across-50-states.html. Published May 19, 2015. Accessed November 3, 2017.

As the nation's largest member-driven health care performance improvement company, Vizient provides network-powered insights in the critical areas of clinical, operational, and supply chain performance and empowers members to deliver exceptional, cost-effective care.

For more information about the Performance Improvement Collaboratives program, contact your network director or picollaboratives@vizientinc.com.

Members of the Vizient Performance Improvement Collaboratives program have access to the project resource page.