

Implementing Best Practice Initiatives to Improve the Care of Sepsis Patients
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare- Franklin
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Background: In July of 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced a new core measure would begin in January of 2016: Severe sepsis/Septic shock. The core measure and Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines were reviewed and data obtained. The baseline data from 2015 revealed 40% of patients passing the measure. A gap analysis, performed by the leadership team, revealed the absence of formalized processes and out-of-date practices related to identifying and caring for this population.

Purpose: Implement evidence based practice by January 2016 through:

- Educating nursing on appropriate identification of sepsis and creating awareness of the core measure.
- Developing a checklist to meet the measure elements.
- Implementing a formalized screening process.
- Streamlining treatment for patient population.

Population: WFH- Franklin is a community hospital consisting of one medical/surgical and one intermediate floor, intensive care unit, and emergency department. All patients admitted to the hospital and diagnosed/identified with severe sepsis or septic shock were included. All registered nurses from these areas were involved in the education and process changes.

Method/Implementation: An interdisciplinary team was established to implement the improvement plan. The team executed an educational session that provided appropriate identification of sepsis, core measure information, and case reviews of patients. A core measure checklist was created for all severe sepsis/septic shock patients, starting in the emergency department and continuing to the inpatient setting. A routine sepsis screening tool was established to assess patients at regular intervals. And lastly, a rapid response team sepsis protocol was implemented to expedite treatment.

Results/Conclusion: The initial process changes and education were successfully implemented by January 2016. As a result of executing best practice initiatives, WFH- Franklin has increased from a 40% core measure pass rate to 60% in the first quarter of 2016. These practices continue to be improved and adapted as the core measure is updated.