## Sepsis Simple Strategies: Safe Transitions of Care Hospitals to Nursing Facilities

## **Think About It!**

In older adults, <u>sepsis is 1.96</u> times more likely to result in a readmission to a hospital than non-sepsis hospitalizations.

More than 40% of older patients have another hospitalization within three months of the initial sepsis, most commonly due to a repeat episode of sepsis or another infection.

Nursing home residents are over <u>six times more</u> likely to present with sepsis in the emergency room than non-nursing home residents. <u>Sepsis and Long-Term Care</u> explains some of the issues that can increase sepsis risk.

## **Take Action!**

Collaboration and communication between care settings is vital to ensuring safe transitions of care for sepsis survivors!

#### **Collaboration**

## Partner with your local nursing facilities and transport teams to:

- 1. Discuss your data trends related to sepsis patients.
  - How many are returning to the hospital for emergency department (ED) visits or readmissions?
  - How soon are they returning?
  - Review cases and learn from each other to conduct a root cause analysis and identify improvement opportunities with the transition or return processes.
  - The <a href="INTERACT® QI Tool">INTERACT® QI Tool</a> can help you to organize and analyze returned patients to the hospital.
- 2. Discuss <u>current transition processes</u> for sepsis patients and prioritize improvements.
  - You can start an improvement cycle with just one patient and adjust as needed.
    - Use this PDSA Worksheet
- 3. <u>Understand the nursing facility capabilities</u> and environment as you prepare patients for the transition.
- 4. Consider how the hospital <u>infection preventionist</u> (IP) teams can assist with nursing home staff education.

### **Communication**

- <u>Say Sepsis</u> ensure that the receiving facility team understands that the patient is recovering from sepsis.
- Be aware that patients may be on new medications, restarting prior home medications held during their hospital stay, or changing from IV to PO for antibiotics and other medications.
- Ensure a comprehensive <u>medication review</u> occurs prior to transition and at admission to nursing facility.
  - INTERACT® Medication Reconciliation Worksheet for Post-Hospital Care

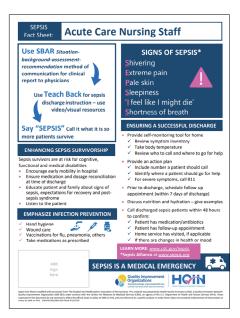


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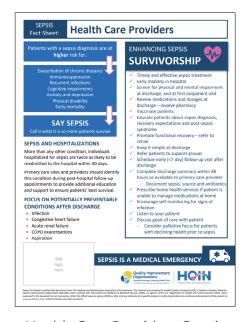
### **Communication** (continued)

- <u>Discuss the plan</u> of care to support the patient in the nursing home. Identify sepsis-specific risk factors and next steps.
- Share the patient's <u>end-of-life wishes</u> and goals of care.
- Display Health Quality Innovation Network's (HQIN) <u>Transfer Communication Sepsis Fact Sheet</u> to help ensure a safe transition of care.
- Share the level of patient and family understanding about sepsis and any educational needs.

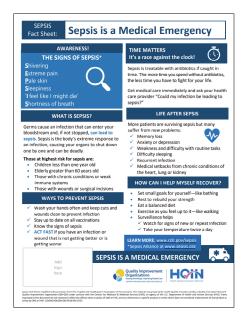
## Sepsis Fact Sheets (Education for Clinicians, Patients and Families)



**Acute Care Nursing Staff** 



Health Care Providers Sepsis Fact Sheet



<u>Sepsis is a Medical Emergency</u> <u>- Patient & Family Education</u>

Create a free account at <a href="http://www.pathway-interact.com">http://www.pathway-interact.com</a> to access INTERACT® referenced tools.

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