

Hospital-wide initiative aims to reduce septic shock mortality rate

SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE BROCKTON HOSPITAL

Signature Healthcare is an integrated health care system comprised of the award-winning not-for-profit Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital; Signature Medical Group (SMG), a multi-specialty physician group of more than 150 physicians practicing in 18 ambulatory locations; and the Brockton Hospital School of Nursing.

Challenge

Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital has been on a journey to improve sepsis outcomes in their hospital for many years. In that time, the hospital's sepsis team has completed a number of sepsis care improvement initiatives and has been successful in **reducing mortality from septic shock to an average rate of 14 percent, which is well below the national average of 28 percent.** But they are not stopping there.

Action

In an effort to reduce sepsis mortality even further, the sepsis committee launched the 10-Star Care for Septic Shock Initiative in early 2019. The hospital-wide initiative has one main goal: to push the hospital's septic shock mortality rate down below ten percent and into the single digits.

To do this, they plan an ongoing effort to improve early recognition and treatment of sepsis, but also, importantly, to enlist the support of staff across the hospital to help achieve this goal.

To roll out the initiative, the sepsis team developed materials with the 10-Star Care for Septic Shock brand, including buttons, posters and badges. Then, they scheduled time during regularly planned department meetings to talk about the new sepsis goal and how the staff in the department can play a role in helping to achieve the goal.

The educational outreach includes not only the teams that currently provide care for patients with sepsis, such as the emergency department clinicians, but also other departments – physical therapy, for example – that may need to be alert to the early signs of sepsis so that they can flag a change in the patient's health status. In this way, the staff education is tailored. For the nurses, the team is emphasizing the importance of early recognition of SIRS criteria, because they are the frontline of taking vitals and have the opportunity to make an early "catch". For the physicians, Dr. Khaled Sorour, an intensivist at the hospital, is reinforcing the importance of delivering antibiotics and fluids within an hour and using the hospital's electronic sepsis order sets.



Pins for staff encourage 10-Star Care for patients with sepsis.

Outcomes

"We've been getting really great feedback so far," says Sharon Morande, the Critical Care Manager and nurse at Brockton Hospital. "People are interested to hear the numbers, to understand that we're doing well and how we can do better," she says.