



Facts about the Reducing Sepsis Mortality Project

In June 2012, the Center for Transforming Healthcare launched its eighth project, which aims to reduce sepsis mortality. Sepsis is the body's life-threatening inflammatory response to an infection and it is the leading cause of death in hospitalized patients, with a mortality rate estimated between 20-35 percent. Every year, 750,000 Americans are diagnosed with sepsis and of those, 220,000 die. In addition, sepsis is the most expensive disease to treat in the hospital, costing approximately \$17 billion dollars annually. Early detection and appropriate treatment of sepsis can decrease mortality, improve patient outcomes and decrease the length of stay in hospitals.

Sepsis mortality can be reduced, even with scarce resources, with early detection and the rapid initiation of appropriate treatment. However, there are multiple barriers to consistent, successful implementation of treatment. This project will work to address those barriers. The six leading hospitals and health centers participating in this project will work with the Center to identify the root causes of barriers to identifying and treating sepsis, and find solutions that are unique to their organization's specific causes. These solutions will be tested and validated, and then spread to other organizations.

The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare is using Robust Process Improvement® (RPI®) methods and tools to identify causes and develop solutions to reduce sepsis mortality. RPI® is a fact-based, systematic, and data-driven problem-solving methodology. It incorporates tools and concepts from Lean Six Sigma and change management methodologies.

Project team

Atlantic Health System, New Jersey
Floyd Medical Center, Georgia
Kaiser Permanente, California
North Shore Long Island Jewish, New York
Texas Health Resources, Texas

The solutions for this project are targeted for publication in early 2015. For more information about this project visit the [project detail](#) page or visit our [website](#).