

Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO) Change Package

Holly Depinet, MD, MPH, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Grant Keeney, MD, MS, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Network

Facilitator: Deborah Campbell, RN, MSN, CPHQ, Kentucky Hospital Association

Virtual Webcast June 3rd, 2025



Disclosure

Today's presenters have confirmed they have no financial disclosures and no conflict of interest.

Objectives

- Describe the purpose of the IPSO Change Package in spreading pediatric sepsis best practices.
- 2. Identify how to navigate and put the IPSO Change Package to best use.
- 3. Summarize two practical strategies for initial implementation of pediatric sepsis programming within an existing healthcare organization.

Information

- Follow along with the IPSO Change Package: https://sepsis.childrenshospitals.org
- Please see the chat for information about other common session questions.
- Please submit questions via the tab at the bottom of your Zoom window for Q&A following the presentation.

Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO) Change Package

Our Journey to Improve Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes

Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Network

Grant Keeney, MD, MS

Medical Director, Quality and Safety

Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Network in 2019

- Children's Hospital within a Hospital located in Tacoma, WA
- Part of a large health system (MultiCare), only Children's Hospital
- Teaching facility for pre-hospital providers, nursing students, and medical residents
- Level II trauma center serving southwest Washington
- Annual ED volume of 47,000+ patients
- 82-bed inpatient (PICU and med-surg units)
- Annual admissions of around 4,300



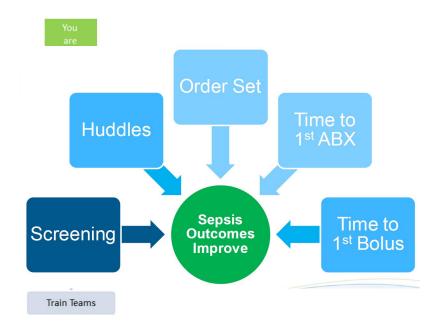
Sepsis at Mary Bridge

- Sepsis case review in our ED
- How well do we recognize, treat, and de-escalate treatment for sepsis?
- Are we different than other children's hospitals?
- Can we do better?
- Why are these questions so hard to answer?
 - In 2018, Mary Bridge had 44,000+ ED visits, and 4,200+ admissions
 - e.g. 31 patients had an ICD-10 code for severe sepsis



Our Sepsis Improvement Journey

- Joined CHA's IPSO Collaborative in Wave 3 (2019)
- Started from a blank slate
- Built our team
- Engaged our front-line
- Focused on the ED and on three priorities
 - Recognition
 - Timeliness of Antibiotics
 - Clinical Practice Guideline
- Took advantage of the collaborative nature of IPSO



The Journey Continues

- Success with implementing bundle locally
- Challenges faced along the way
- Spreading across a system
- Accelerated our own improvement efforts
 - Built on a body of research, guidelines, other's local implementation efforts
 - Achieved improvements more efficiently, at lower cost, and faster than we could have working independently



Another Sepsis Journey

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Holly Depinet, MD, MPH

Director of Quality Improvement and Safety, Division of Emergency Medicine Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Another Sepsis Journey – Cincinnati Children's

Children's Hospital – 90,000 ED visits; 34,400 admissions

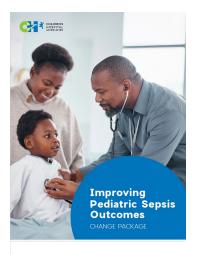


- Sepsis work started in the ED via the AAP's Pediatric Septic Shock Collaborative (2013)
 - Implemented screening BPA, huddle process, clinical pathway, orderset, education
- **Joined IPSO in 1**st wave with ED/PICU/Hosp Med/Heme-Onc as pilot units with plan to spread (2016)
 - Incorporated IPSO tools as well as novel interventions (Sepsis Escape Room, KPI huddles with all units, Flight Plan, daily case emails)
- Now incorporated into institutional robust Situation Awareness work
 - Reaches units who rarely see sepsis
 - Embedded in watcher discussion checklists
 - Inclusion in monthly SA case reviews
 - Separate sepsis leadership group reviews data, new evidence, pathways/order, education



What is the Change Package?





- A **toolkit to guide** sepsis improvement program development
- An overview of best practices (the bundle recognition, fluids, antibiotics)
- A data quick-start guide
- A library of tools (from 66+ other hospitals!!)

Produced on behalf of the Children's Hospital Association's Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes Collaborative, by:

Getting started with the Change Package

Background

- Impact of Se
- Introduction

Change Concepts

- Introduction
 - a. All-o
 - b. Indi
- 2. Key Process
 - a. Rec
 - i.
 - ji.
 - i
 - b. Tre
 - I.
- Measuremer
 - a. Defin
 - b. Kev
 - c. App
 - d. Trac
- Sepsis Progr
 - . Tear
 - b. Edu
 - c. Sustainability
 - d. Spread

Considerations for Special Populations

- Hematology and Onco
- Critical Care
- Caring for Children in 5
- 4. Transport
- Additional Special Pop

Appendix

Resource library

Acronyms

Collaborative Hospitals

References

Publications

14

Sepsis Bundle of Care

Overview

Pediatric Sepsis Bundle

Five key processes:



Compliance defined as:

Key Process	Threshold
Recognition	Positive screen, positive huddle, or order set utilization
Fluid bolus	Within 60 minutes of sepsis onset
Antibiotic administration	Within 180 minutes of sepsis onset

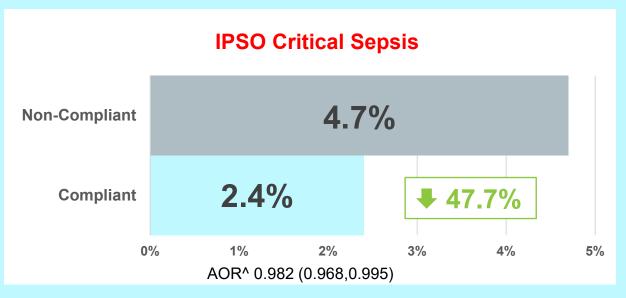
- Emphasis on All-or-None Bundle Compliance
- Improved outcomes with full bundle adherence

16

Bundle Compliance

Sepsis Recognition Use of one or more of the following: positive sepsis screen positive sepsis huddle and/ order set utilization AND **Sepsis Treatment** Administration of: bolus in 60 minutes AND antibiotic in 180 minutes

Association Between Bundle Compliance and 30-Day Sepsis-Attributable Mortality



[^] Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI) adjusted for age at functional time zero (FTZ), high risk conditions, positive blood culture, lactic acid > 4 mmoll/L, time to surgical source control, FTZ care setting, and clustering of episodes within hospital

childrenshospitals.org (Paul et al, 2023)

Recognition

Screen, Huddle, Order Set

Sepsis Recognition



- Utilization of sepsis recognition processes is associated with <u>lower sepsis-attributable mortality</u>, fewer hospital days and ICU days and <u>reduced</u> <u>disparities</u> in sepsis recognition.
- Screening tool, huddle and orderset work together!



Sepsis Screen



IPSO recommendation: Implement a screening tool adapted for a specific care setting

- Implementation Guidance
 - Start with paper to test
 - Consider a 2-tiered system
 - Follow positive screens with a bedside huddle
- Strategies for common barriers
 - Test in the background
 - Share PPV vs Sensitivity on an ongoing basis

Sepsis Huddle



IPSO recommendation: When potential sepsis is identified, or if there is concern about continued deterioration from sepsis at any point, conduct a <u>huddle</u> to review the clinical findings, determine if sepsis is evolving, and plan next steps in care.

Implementation Guidance

- Keep the huddle brief and focused
- Include a structured assessment and plan

Strategies for common barriers

- Build on other successful local processes (eg rapid response teams)
- Communicate wins often

21

Sepsis Order Set



Sepsis Order Set

IPSO recommendation:

- Use an evidence-based guideline to standardize evaluation and treatment orders for patients with suspected sepsis
- Ensure the order set is built to support rapid workup and treatment (e.g., "STAT" for labs and antibiotics)
- Include culture, 1st bolus and STAT antibiotics

Implementation Guidance

- Assure alignment between ordersets and clinical pathways
- Utilize pre-clicks

Strategies for common barriers

Include trainees in development as they use the order set most frequently

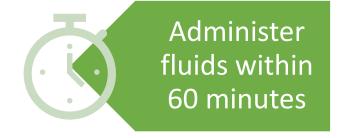
22

Treatment

Fluid Bolus & Antibiotic Timeliness

Fluid Bolus Timeliness





- **IPSO recommendation:** Administer up to 40-60 ml/kg in bolus fluid within 60 minutes
- Implementation strategies:
 - Ensure enough fluids are stocked in each unit
 - Develop sepsis pathways and order sets that promote best practices:
 - e.g., Appropriate fluid choices (balanced, lactated ringers vs. 0.9% saline)
 - Accurately document IV fluid start times (e.g., EHR, laminated tool, sepsis checklist)

Antibiotic Timeliness





- **IPSO recommendation:** Initiate timely empiric antibiotics within 1 hour for septic shock and within 3 hours for sepsis without shock
- Implementation strategies:
 - Include pharmacy staff in developing antibiotic workflows
 - Develop sepsis pathways and order sets that promote best practices
 - e.g. Empiric antibiotic choices that considers sites of infection, high-risk/ immunocompromised patients
 - Accurately document IV antibiotic start times (e.g., EHR, laminated tool, sepsis checklist)

25

Measurement

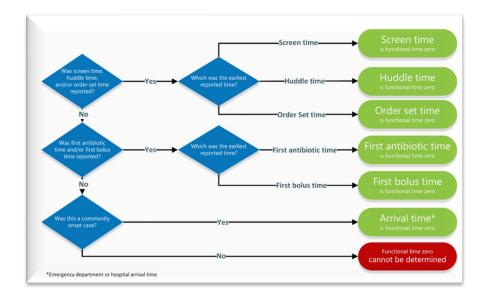
Measurement

Defining sepsis for QI

- Balance of automatability, validity and ability to drive QI
- IPSO Sepsis and IPSO Critical Sepsis (intention-to-treat)
- Choosing key performance metrics
 - Processes focus on bundle interventions
 - Outcomes mortality and epidemiology

Approximating sepsis onset

- Automated via EHR surrogates
- Earliest "recognition" → earliest fluids/abx
 → arrival
- Tracking and benchmarking
 - Standardized dashboard examples
 - Sepsis data tracking via PHIS



Measurement

Defining sepsis for QI

- Balance of automatability, validity and ability to drive QI
- IPSO Sepsis and IPSO Critical Sepsis (intention-to-treat)

Choosing key performance metrics

- Processes focus on bundle interventions
- Outcomes mortality and epidemiology

Approximating sepsis onset

- Automated via EHR surrogates
- Earliest "recognition" → earliest fluids/abx
 → arrival

Tracking and benchmarking

- Standardized dashboard examples
- Sepsis data tracking via PHIS

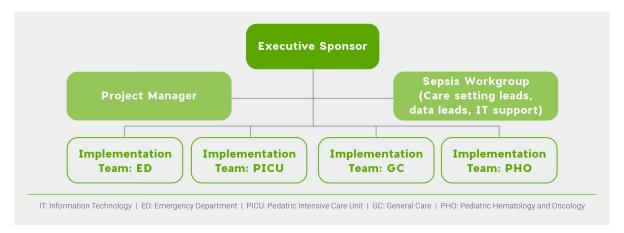


Pediatric Sepsis Program Development

- Where to start
- Initial actions for launching a sepsis program
 - Identify the sepsis program leader or co-leaders
 - Secure support from hospital leadership
 - Conduct a needs analysis to identify areas for improvement
 - Establish initial goals for the sepsis program



- Leadership commitment and accountability
- Allocate necessary resources for the program
- Plan for sepsis education
- Team Structure:
 - Multidisciplinary, lean but inclusive
 - Appoint a dedicated sepsis coordinator

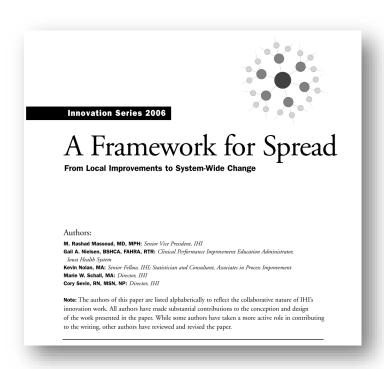


31

- Focus on Sustainability:
 - Consider sustainability from the outset of program development
 - Align sepsis with organizational priorities
 - Create enduring processes for front-line staff
 - Develop a plan for ensuring new knowledge is properly evaluated and incorporated
 - Foster external partnerships: CHA's Pediatric Sepsis Community of Practice



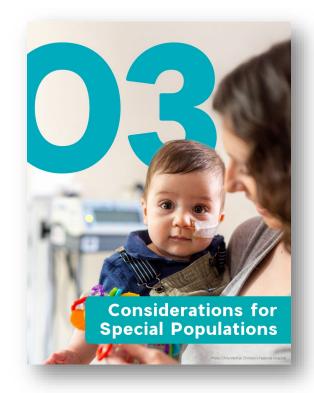
- Spreading Your Improvement Work:
 - Consider additional hospital care areas, system-wide practice, and community hospitals
 - Can drive towards health equity, accelerate progress in care improvements, and enhance collaboration
 - Think about spread once outcomes and sustainability can be reliably demonstrated
 - Use IHI Framework for Spread and Healthcare Improvement Scotland guidelines



Special Populations within Pediatric Sepsis

Special Populations within Pediatric Sepsis

- Hematology/Oncology
- Critical Care
- Caring for Children in Systems Serving Adult and Pediatric Populations
- Transport
- Additional Special Populations



Special Populations

- Caring for Children in Systems Serving Adult and Pediatric Populations
 - Leverage partnerships with adult sepsis teams
 - Adapt adult-focused protocols for children
 - Align pediatric sepsis improvement work with established adult SEP-1 reporting systems
 - Establish process for training frontline staff on pediatric-specific protocols
 - Ensure appropriately sized pediatric equipment is available



Tool Library

Tool Library

Resource Library

The following tools were developed by Children's Hospital Association and participants of the Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes collaborative and have been shared for use and adaptation for local sepsis improvement work. Please use the suggested citation in presentations or publications. Latest revision dates are noted where available.

Bundle Implementation

Recognition

Screen

Huddle

Order Set

Antibiotic

Bolus

IV Access

Checklists Pathways

Education

Staff Education

Patient/Family Education

Measurement

Dashboard

Time Zero Cheat Sheet

Program Development

Team Structure

Readiness Inventory

Sustainability

Spread

Special Populations

High-Risk Conditions

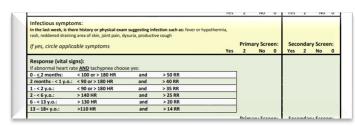
Bundle implementation

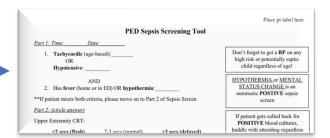
Recognition

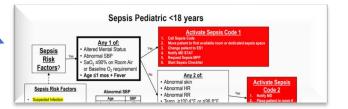
Screen

- Screen EHR Tool (ED, Danville Geisinger Janet Weis Children's Hospital)
- Screen EHR Tool (ED. Fort Worth Cook Children's Medical Center)
- Screen EHR Tool (PICU, Houston Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital)
- · Screen Improvement Initiative (ED, Children's Hospital of Atlanta (CHOA))
- Screen Paper Tool (Fort Worth Cook Children's Medical Center)
- Screen Paper Tool (ED, Baltimore University of Maryland Children's Hospital)
- o Screen Paper Tool (ED, Houston Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital)
- Screen Paper Tool (ED. Tacoma Mary Bridge Children's Hospital)
- Screen Paper Tool (GC, Baltimore University of Maryland Children's Hospital)
- Screen Paper Tool (GC, Houston Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital)
- Screen Paper Tool (PICU, Akron Children's Hospital)

Huddle







Authors and Contributors

Authors

- Elise Buckwalter, MSN, CPNP-AC
- Holly Depinet, MD, MPH
- Sarah Kandil, MD
- Grant Keeney, MD, MS
- Roni D. Lane, MD

A Special Thank You to the 66
Children's Hospitals that
Participated in the IPSO
Collaborative

Contributors

- Mahsa Akhavan, MD; Elizabeth Mack, MD, MS
- Monica Nielsen-Parker, MSW
- Raina Paul, MD
- Ruth Riggs
- Melissa Schafer, MD
- Erin M. Schulz, MSN, RN, EMT, C-NPT
- Jayne Stuart, MPH
- Jennifer Wilkes, MD, MSCE

References

Balamuth, F., Alpern, E. R., Abbadessa, M. K., Hayes, K., Schast, A., Lavelle, J., ... & Zorc, J. J. (2017). Improving recognition of pediatric severe sepsis in the emergency department: contributions of a vital sign-based electronic alert and bedside clinician identification. *Annals of emergency medicine*, 70(6), 759-768.

Balamuth, F., Weiss, S. L., Hall, M., Neuman, M. I., Scott, H., Brady, P. W., ... & Alpern, E. R. (2015). Identifying pediatric severe sepsis and septic shock: accuracy of diagnosis codes. The Journal of pediatrics, 167(6), 1295-1300.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC.

Cruz, A. T., Williams, E. A., Graf, J. M., Perry, A. M., Harbin, D. E., Wuestner, E. R., & Patel, B. (2012). Test characteristics of an automated age-and temperature-adjusted tachycardia alert in pediatric septic shock. *Pediatric emergency care*, 28(9), 889-894.

Davis, A. L., Carcillo, J. A., Aneja, R. K., Deymann, A. J., Lin, J. C., Nguyen, T. C., ... & Zuckerberg, A. L. (2017). The American College of Critical Care Medicine clinical practice parameters for hemodynamic support of pediatric and neonatal septic shock: executive summary. Pediatric critical care medicine: a journal of the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies, 18(9), 884.

De Castro, G. C., Slatnick, L. R., Shannon, M., Zhao, Z., Jackson, K., Smith, C. M., ... & Esbenshade, A. J. (2024). Impact of Time-to-Antibiotic Delivery in Pediatric Patients With Cancer Presenting With Febrile Neutropenia. JCO Oncology Practice, 20(2), 228-238.

Emr, B. M., Alcamo, A. M., Carcillo, J. A., Aneja, R. K., & Mollen, K. P. (2018). Pediatric sepsis update: how are children different? Surgical infections, 19(2), 176-183.

Freyleue, S. D., Arakelyan, M., & Leyenaar, J. K. (2023). Epidemiology of pediatric hospitalizations at general hospitals and freestanding children's hospitals in the United States: 2019 update. Journal of Hospital Medicine, 18(10), 908-917.

Goldstein, B., Giroir, B., & Randolph, A. (2005). International pediatric sepsis consensus conference: definitions for sepsis and organ dysfunction in pediatrics. Pediatric critical care medicine, 6(1), 2-8.

Haeusler, G. M., Dashti, S. G., James, F., Babl, F. E., Borland, M. L., Clark, J. E., ... & Thursky, K. A. (2024). Impact of time to antibiotics on clinical outcome in paediatric febrile neutropenia: a target trial emulation of 1685 episodes. The Lancet Regional Health–Western Pacific, 53.

References

Institute for Healthcare Improvement. (n.d.). SBAR Tool: Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation. Resources: Tools. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/reference_list_electronic_sources.html

Jeffcott, S., Daniel, M., Glassborow, R., Renfrew, M., Ritchie, K., Smith, L. A., & Watters, J. (2014). The spread and sustainability of quality improvement in healthcare. Healthcare Improvement Scotland. https://qi.elft.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/the-spread-and-sustainability-ofguality-improvement-in-healthcare-pdf.pdf

Massoud MR, Nielsen GA, Nolan K, Schall MW, Sevin C. A Framework for Spread: From Local Improvements to System-Wide Change. IHI Innovation Series white paper. Cambridge, MA: Institute for Healthcare Improvement; 2006. (Available at ihi.org)

Matics, T. J., & Sanchez-Pinto, L. N. (2017). Adaptation and validation of a pediatric sequential organ failure assessment score and evaluation of the sepsis-3 definitions in critically ill children. JAMA pediatrics, 171(10), e172352-e172352.

Mitchell, H. K., Reddy, A., Montoya-Williams, D., Harhay, M., Fowler, J. C., & Yehya, N. (2021). Hospital outcomes for children with severe sepsis in the USA by race or ethnicity and insurance status: a population-based, retrospective cohort study. The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health, 5(2), 103-112.

Noronha, S. A., & Strouse, J. J. (2023). Fever in Children With Sickle Cell Disease—Rethinking the Approach When Bacteremia Is Rare. JAMA Network Open, 6(6), e2318837-e2318837.

Paul, R., Melendez, E., Stack, A., Capraro, A., Monuteaux, M., & Neuman, M. I. (2014). Improving adherence to PALS septic shock guidelines. Pediatrics, 133(5), e1358-e1366.

Pantell, R. H., Roberts, K. B., Adams, W. G., Dreyer, B. P., Kuppermann, N., O'Leary, S. T., ... & Woods, C. R. (2021). Clinical practice guideline: evaluation and management of well-appearing febrile infants 8 to 60 days old. *Pediatrics*, 148(2).

Phelps, K. B., Gebremariam, A., Andrist, E., Barbaro, R. P., Freed, G. L., & Carlton, E. F. (2023). Children with severe sepsis: relationship between community level income and morbidity and mortality. Pediatric Research, 94(2), 837-844.

Ravikumar, N., Sankar, J., & Das, R. R. (2022). Functional outcomes in survivors of pediatric sepsis: a scoping review and discussion of implications for low-and middle-income countries. Frontiers in Pediatrics, 10, 762179.

Rineer, S., Walsh, P. S., Smart, L. R., Harun, N., Schnadower, D., & Lipshaw, M. J. (2023). Risk of bacteremia in febrile children and young adults with sickle cell disease in a multicenter emergency department cohort. JAMA Network Open, 6(6), e2318904-e2318904.

References

Rudd, K. E., Johnson, S. C., Agesa, K. M., Shackelford, K. A., Tsoi, D., Kievlan, D. R., ... & Naghavi, M. (2020). Global, regional, and national sepsis incidence and mortality, 1990–2017: analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study. The Lancet, 395(10219), 200-211.

Schlapbach, L. J., Watson, R. S., Sorce, L. R., Argent, A. C., Menon, K., Hall, M. W., ... & Wardenburg, J. B. (2024). International consensus criteria for pediatric sepsis and septic shock. JAMA, 331(8), 665-674.

Weiss, S. L., Balamuth, F., Chilutti, M., Ramos, M. J., McBride, P., Kelly, N. A., ... & Pennington, J. W. (2020a). Identification of pediatric sepsis for epidemiologic surveillance using electronic clinical data. Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, 21(2), 113-121.

Weiss, S. L., Peters, M. J., Alhazzani, W., Agus, M. S., Flori, H. R., Inwald, D. P., ... & Tissieres, P. (2020b). Surviving sepsis campaign international guidelines for the management of septic shock and sepsis-associated organ dysfunction in children. Intensive care medicine, 46, 10-67.

IPSO Official Publications

Eisenberg, M. A., Riggs, R., Paul, R., Balamuth, F., Richardson, T., DeSouza, H. G., ... & Zuccaro, J. C. (2022). Association between the first-hour intravenous fluid volume and mortality in pediatric septic shock. *Annals of emergency medicine*, 80(3), 213-224.

Larsen, G. Y., Brilli, R., Macias, C. G., Niedner, M., Auletta, J. J., Balamuth, F., ... & Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes Collaborative Investigators. (2021). Development of a quality improvement learning collaborative to improve pediatric sepsis outcomes. *Pediatrics*, 147(1).

Lane, R. D., Richardson, T., Scott, H. F., Paul, R. M., Balamuth, F., Eisenberg, M. A., Riggs, R., Huskins, W. C., Horvat, C. M., Keeney, G. E., Hueschen, L. A., Lockwood, J. M., Gunnala, V., McKee, B. P., Patankar, N., Pinto, V. L., Sebring, A. M., Sharron, M. P., Treseler, J., Wilkes, J. J., ... Workman, J. K. (2024). Delays to Antibiotics in the Emergency Department and Risk of Mortality in Children With Sepsis. JAMA network open, 7(6), e2413955.

Paul, R., Niedner, M., Brilli, R., Macias, C., Riggs, R., Balamuth, F., ... & IPSO COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATORS. (2021). Metric development for the multicenter Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO) collaborative. Pediatrics, 147(5).

Paul, R., Niedner, M., Riggs, R., Richardson, T., DeSouza, H. G., Auletta, J. J., ... & IPSO COLLABORATIVE INVESTIGATORS. (2023). Bundled Care to Reduce Sepsis Mortality: The Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO) Collaborative. Pediatrics.

Schafer, M., Gruhler De Souza, H., Paul, R., Riggs, R., Richardson, T., Conlon, P., ... & Kandil, S. B. (2022). Characteristics and Outcomes of Sepsis Presenting in Inpatient Pediatric Settings. Hospital pediatrics, 12(12), 1048-1059.

Scott, H. F., Brilli, R. J., Paul, R., Macias, C. G., Niedner, M., Depinet, H., ... & Investigators, I. P. S. O. I. C. (2020). Evaluating pediatric sepsis definitions designed for electronic health record extraction and multicenter quality improvement. Critical care medicine, 48(10), e916.



Thank You!

Email:

Quality.Programs@childrenshospitals.org





Champions for Children's Health

600 13th St., NW Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20005 202-753-5500

16011 College Blvd. Suite 250 | Lenexa, KS 66219 913-262-1436

childrenshospitals.org