

Sepsis Response Nurse

January 2026

UL Health

Hospitals with Code Sepsis Response Teams

- Improved patient outcomes
 - Earlier detection and earlier treatment
 - Timely administration of antibiotics
 - Each 1-hour delay of IV antibiotic administration increases mortality by up to 8%
- Improved compliance to CMS SEP-1 Core Measure
 - Response team will raise awareness among health care providers and staff on the important of early identification and treatment

Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements

While we meet most of the 52 guidelines, we have great opportunities for improvement

CDC guidelines:

- #2: Our sepsis program is provided sufficient resources, including data analytics and information technology support, to operate the program effectively.
- #32: Our hospital rapid response team is trained in sepsis recognition and care
- #33: Our hospital has a “code sepsis” protocol for facilitating prompt recognition and team-based care of sepsis.

Sepsis Response Nurse Timeline

Discussed with
CEO November
2023

Positions
posted
December
2023. Managed
by Specialty
Nursing. Title:
MERIT Sepsis
Nurse

Training
February 2024.
Pharmacy,
Phlebotomy,
Kurin, Edwards
Life Sciences,
Sepsis
Coordinator

2024-Present
Continuous
changes in
staffing but
always with 1
day/1 night RN

FTE Approval
from CNO
December 2023

First hires
January 2024.
Hires from ED
and ICU

Fully staffed
June 2024

How are septic patients identified?



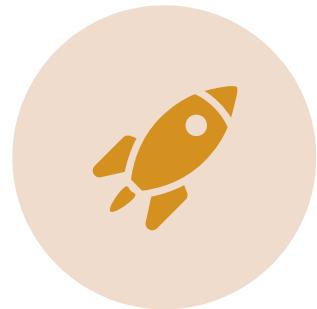
SEPSIS CRAWLER
CERNER



SEPSIS DASHBOARD



SEPSIS EMAIL



ED LAUNCH POINT

How will Sepsis Response Nurse respond to Sepsis Alerts?



REVIEW ALERTS



INFECTION
PRESENT



ANTIBIOTICS > 24
HOURS



INITIATE
TREATMENT

Sepsis Response Nurse Treatment

- Initiate Treatment
 - Order Sepsis Panel (part of nurse driven protocol)
 - Blood cultures, labs, POC or serum lactic acid
 - Must complete x amount of blood culture draws without contamination before allowed to draw blood cultures
 - iSTAT is available however not always functional
 - Notify provider of any resulting labs and request antibiotics and IV fluids
 - Guide provider on documentation if withholding fluids or choosing not to continue sepsis workup
 - Continue to reassess and ensure 3 and 6-hour bundles complete
 - Documentation follow-up

Process and Lessons Learned

- The team was first piloted in the Emergency Department Admissions Unit and the Mixed Acuity units.
 - Data review showed ICU compliance still low
 - Turned on sepsis alerts in ICU level of care for Sepsis Nurse to receive alerts
- MERIT and MERIT Sepsis Nurses introduced at resident lectures and provided sepsis education to Internal Medicine Services
 - Still working on positive relationships with surgical services