

# Sepsis Spotlight

**Saving Lives through Increased Awareness**

**2017 Issue 1**

## IMPORTANT NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FOR HEALTHCARE STAKEHOLDERS

### Collaborative Efforts Increase Awareness About Community-Based Sepsis!

Sepsis is the nation's tenth leading cause of death, and research has shown that more than 80% of sepsis cases originate in the community. Leadership at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recognizes the importance of providing sepsis education to community based providers and the general public. In September 2015, CMS awarded the IPRO-led Atlantic Quality Innovation Network (AQIN) a two year "Community Based Sepsis Awareness" Special Innovation Project. Using a train-the-trainer model, IPRO began to implement strategies to increase awareness of the early signs and symptoms of sepsis. More than 9,600 clinical and non-clinical staff members employed by skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, physician practices, and dialysis treatment centers received training. This initiative was successful largely because of the collaborations IPRO has with our valued partners. This initial issue of *Sepsis Spotlight* identifies these organizations and highlights our collective accomplishments this past year.

Upcoming issues of *Sepsis Spotlight* will include articles from

- **Sepsis Alliance:** A non-profit patient advocacy organization with a mission to save lives by raising awareness that sepsis is a medical emergency.
- **The Rory Staunton Foundation:** A non-profit patient advocacy organization with a mission to reduce the number of sepsis-related deaths through training, raising public awareness, improving medical diagnosis and supporting those affected by sepsis.
- **The Home Care Association of New York State:** A statewide advocate for quality, community-based care, which represents hundreds of dedicated providers and home care workers.

### IPRO Recognizes Outstanding Sepsis Work at June 2017 "IPRO Quality Awards"

Each year IPRO presents quality awards to stakeholders, healthcare providers and partners that have made significant contributions to quality initiatives. This year, Amy Bowerman, RN and Putnam Hospital Center received awards for their exceptional sepsis-related work.



**Amy Bowerman, RN**  
**Director of Quality Improvement-  
VNA of Utica & Oneida County**

Amy has been the driving force behind the creation and implementation of the Home Care Association (HCA) of NYS's Adult Sepsis Screening Tool. Through this effort she has demonstrated her ongoing

commitment to quality improvement and to sharing best practices with the community.

The HCA Adult Screening Tool

- Facilitates early identification and treatment of sepsis
- Is an essential component of IPRO's Community Based Sepsis Awareness Special Innovation Project
- Is available statewide
- Has been nationally recognized and praised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Rory Staunton Foundation, and Sepsis Alliance.

#### Putnam Hospital Center (PHC)

IPRO recognized PHC for its organization-wide commitment to quality. PHC targeted prevention, early recognition, and prompt treatment of sepsis at both the hospital and community level. PHC staff implemented hospital-wide protocols, education, training and interventions to promote prompt identification and treatment of sepsis. The hospital also conducts community outreach to provide education and promote public awareness of the signs and symptoms of sepsis and the importance of treating sepsis as a medical emergency. Through a comprehensive effort led by Tyra Thompson, RN, PHC was successful in transforming clinical practice for sepsis management, significantly improving compliance with the NYS Department of Health's, Rory's Regulations, the gold standard of care for sepsis treatment.

## SEPSIS



See page 4  
for answers.

### ACROSS

- 7 Should be administered as soon as sepsis is suspected to maintain blood pressure
- 9 Type of microorganism most commonly associated with sepsis
- 10 The community needs an increase of this (pertaining to sepsis)
- 15 Greater than 90 per minute could be a sign of sepsis
- 16 Medication that should be administered as soon as sepsis is suspected
- 19 The most severe form of sepsis
- 20 The body's overwhelming and life threatening response to an infection
- 21 An increase in this can be a sign of sepsis
- 23 Loss of blood flow to extremities can result in these
- 24 Can be a trigger to sepsis
- 26 Organ \_\_\_\_\_ can result if sepsis progresses
- 28 Actress who died from sepsis in 2016
- 29 A possible sign of sepsis

### DOWN

- 1 Stage of sepsis characterized by sepsis plus organ dysfunction
- 2 Blood test used as part of an initial evaluation of possible sepsis
- 3 People suffering from a burn or \_\_\_\_\_ are at risk for developing sepsis
- 4 Meaning of the Greek word from which sepsis was derived
- 5 Sepsis should always be treated as a medical \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Should be contacted if you think you may have sepsis
- 7 One of the early signs of sepsis
- 8 Disease that increases your risk for developing sepsis
- 9 Lab test to determine bacteria in the blood
- 11 The number one infection associated with sepsis
- 12 Treatment that may be necessary if kidneys are damaged
- 13 People with weak \_\_\_\_\_ systems are at risk for developing sepsis
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ skin could be a sign of sepsis
- 17 Where people are usually treated for sepsis
- 18 Affects up to 50% of sepsis survivors (abbreviation)
- 22 Where critically ill sepsis patients are treated
- 25 New York State's healthcare quality improvement organization
- 27 How fluids are often administered to septic patients

## National Spotlight on Sepsis

### A MESSAGE FROM THE HOME CARE ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

#### Home Care Association Rolls Out Home Care Sepsis Initiative



The Home Care Association of New York State (HCA) rolled out a first-in-the nation sepsis screening, early recognition and intervention program through the home care system. HCA, IPRO, the National Sepsis Alliance and clinical experts, collaborated over the past two and a half years to create, vet and refine the instruments comprising this initiative. These include a sepsis protocol, screening tool, algorithm and an adjunctive patient education tool. Together, these instruments form a community based screening, education and intervention system to combat this deadly condition at its roots – the community. The system is available to home care and other providers statewide for incorporation within their clinical policies and practices. Using this system, home care clinicians will screen patients at every visit, and follow the indicated steps – from patient education, to intervention on site, to engagement of the doctor and hospital – based on their findings. Interested providers should email [Sepsistool@hcanys.org](mailto:Sepsistool@hcanys.org) for the user agreement and access to the tool.

*By Al Cardillo, LMSW, Executive Vice President, HCA, and Amy Bowerman, RN, Director of Patient Services and Director of Quality Improvement for the VNA of Utica and Oneida County Senior Health Network*

### A MESSAGE FROM THE RORY STAUNTON FOUNDATION

We established The Rory Staunton Foundation for Sepsis Prevention ([www.rorystaunton.org](http://www.rorystaunton.org)) following the preventable death of our 12 year-old son, Rory, in 2012. Rory fell and grazed his arm; he died from sepsis four days later. The mission of the Foundation is to ensure that no more families lose a loved one to sepsis because of lack of awareness and poor medical diagnosis.

In 2013, Governor Andrew Cuomo, working with the Staunton family signed Rory's Regulations into law. These mandatory sepsis protocols are saving between 5,000 and 8,000 New Yorkers annually.

Although sepsis was killing 250,000 Americans, in 2012 there was no national sepsis awareness campaign. In 2014, the Foundation



*Rory Staunton*

organized the first Sepsis Hearing in the United States Senate. We discovered that sepsis was not listed on the CDC's A-Z index, and following prolonged pressure by the Foundation CDC declared sepsis a "national emergency." We set up The National Family Council on Sepsis to act as a network of support for sepsis families, and in 2015 we established sepsis educational programs for middle and high school students.

We welcome a partnership with IPRO to continue our mission to save lives.

### A MESSAGE FROM SEPSIS ALLIANCE

Founded in 2007 as the nation's first sepsis advocacy organization, Sepsis Alliance works to raise sepsis awareness, spreading the message that sepsis is a medical emergency and that early recognition and rapid treatment are vital to saving lives. Dr. Carl Flatley, DDS founded Sepsis Alliance after losing his daughter Erin to sepsis. This year marks the organization's tenth anniversary of providing sepsis education to both the public and the healthcare provider community. National awareness for sepsis has grown significantly during this time, as demonstrated by annual surveys commissioned by Sepsis Alliance. In 2016, 55% of United States adults were aware of sepsis (a dramatic increase from just 19% in 2007) when the organization was founded. Sepsis Alliance continues to push for change through partnerships; in 2010 the Global Sepsis Alliance was co-founded, and in 2011 Sepsis Awareness Month was established.

Another big milestone within this timeframe was the adoption by the CDC of Sepsis Alliance's call to action, "Sepsis is a Medical Emergency," helping to keep sepsis in the national spotlight and further raise awareness. In addition, by collaborating with organizations including IPRO, Amputee Coalition, Children's Hospital Association, and many others, Sepsis Alliance has successfully increased sepsis awareness by reaching and educating new audiences. The Sepsis Alliance website, [Sepsis.org](http://Sepsis.org) now serves more than 1.5 million visitors each year and offers a comprehensive and ever-growing library of useful information. Healthcare professionals will find hands-on materials for staff and patient education, including award-winning instructional videos, informational brochures, and downloadable Sepsis Information Guides that connect the dots between sepsis and a variety of conditions and diseases.

For more information on sepsis and Sepsis Alliance, please visit [Sepsis.org](http://Sepsis.org)



**SEPSIS ALLIANCE**

*Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.*

