



HCA Home Care Sepsis Screening and Intervention Initiative

Supported by a Special *NYSHealth* Foundation Grant

HCA has been awarded a major grant by the prestigious New York State Health Foundation (*NYSHealth*) to support statewide implementation of HCA's home care sepsis screening and intervention initiative. The amount that has been awarded is \$149,749, for the period beginning October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018.

Grant Purpose and Prospectus

- ❖ Promote and support statewide adoption and use of this screening and intervention initiative within the home care sector and by other applicable providers.
- ❖ Conduct training for home care and key clinical collaborators in the tool, and broadly in sepsis education.
- ❖ Provide technical support for providers and practitioners.
- ❖ Coordinate with cross-sector clinical partners (e.g., hospitals, physicians, EMS, health plans).
- ❖ Conduct community/public outreach.
- ❖ Collect and research data for provider feedback, improvement, research, evaluation and policy.

The grant will support and build upon the already-launched statewide implementation efforts by HCA and partners for health-and-life saving sepsis screening, prevention, patient education, early recognition, mitigation and treatment. It will substantially support the goal of making this home care sepsis tool available to home care agencies and other applicable care providers statewide. It will also support technical assistance to agencies and practitioners for adoption and clinical application of the tool, promote coordination with continuum partners in the response to sepsis, support data collection, research and evaluation, and support public outreach and education.

Background:

HCA, collaborating with key partners - including home care clinicians, IPRO, National Sepsis Alliance, expert sepsis physicians - has innovated the nation's first home-community screening system and education/intervention protocol for sepsis. With HCA rollout (3/31/2017), NY's health system is the first in the US to have this home-community based screening/education/intervention in sepsis. HCA, with the support of key partners, has committed extensive resources over 2+ years to design, develop, vet, beta test, and refine this new system, and conduct preparatory education for home care providers statewide. The comprising instruments include: a patient screen to be completed by home health clinicians; an algorithm for clinical follow-up to the screen findings; a protocol for standardized clinical use of the screen and algorithm; and a patient education tool. The instruments and protocol are for adoption and integration into agencies' clinical policies, practices, and electronic health records. They have been designed to sync with hospital sepsis requirements.

Home care patients will be screened at every clinical visit. Screen findings are keyed to the algorithm's range of follow-up and intervention instructions as appropriate (and always subject to clinical/physician discretion). The algorithm ranges from "no further action needed," to patient/family education, to home based clinical intervention upon the patient's MD orders, to summoning and coordinating EMS transport and coordination with hospital ER staff.

Agencies are being required via an HCA use-agreement to abide the instruments and protocol w/o alteration (for standardization and quality control), to have participated in both sepsis and sepsis tool and protocol training, and to agree to participate in data sharing for evaluation and continuous quality

improvement/effectiveness, and recommendations for health system-wide support.

HCA and partners conducted preparatory webinars to provide agencies with foundational sepsis background, instruction on the screening tool and related instruments, methods for integration into agencies' electronic health records, and guidance on agency adoption and implementation. Agencies statewide have participated in this preparation.

Evidenced-based sepsis reduction projects in NY hospitals and elsewhere have attributed success to extensive, in depth training of clinical staff and leadership. This in depth training is even more key in this dynamic initiative and home care milieu.

Grant Components

- In-depth training for home care clinicians, direct care workers and agency leaders in the adoption and use of the HCA sepsis tool, and broadly in sepsis; this will include **both** current and new agency users of the tool. The training will include: in-person sessions conducted in eight regions of the state complete with technical and case review presentations; webinars; conferencing; statewide user-calls for technical assistance information exchange sessions; data-sharing; in-service education; and provision of additional sepsis resources.
- Collaborative sessions with home care, hospital, physician, EMS, health plans and other key clinical partners to coordinate sepsis response across the continuum. These sessions will be conducted in eight regions of the state, and held immediately following each of the eight training sessions.
- Media and other public outreach to increase awareness and education.
- Data compilation, analysis, data sharing w/providers and officials for evaluation and improvement, reporting, and recommendations for policy and system-wide sepsis support. Data compilation will be through an IPRO-sponsored HIPAA compliant portal which will enable tracking of every screen, every screen entry, follow-up and intervention recorded.
- Creation of a dedicated website: "Stop Sepsis at Home." The website will house all of the project materials, resources, schedules and related. Will also host links to state and national sepsis leader organizations (e.g., Sepsis Alliance, Rory Staunton Foundation, CDC, State Department of Health, etc.).
- A project committee will be convened to advise on and support training and implementation, including sepsis leaders and organizational and professional clinical experts, key health sectors, government officials, consumers and other strategic partners.
- Other.

Support for this work is provided by the New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth). The mission of NYSHealth is to expand health insurance coverage, increase access high-quality health care services, and improve public and community health. The views presented here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the New York State Health Foundation or its directors, officers, and staff.