



Community Sepsis Awareness

Community-outreach Strategies Increase Sepsis Awareness

Educating Professionals Across the Continuum of Care, Collaborating with Engaged Partners, and Employing Community-based Awareness Strategies Lead to Successful Outcomes.

The Challenge

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection that can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and more than 258,000 deaths annually in the United States. Early recognition and medical intervention can reduce and prevent sepsis mortality and morbidity. Contrary to common belief, greater than 80% of sepsis cases originate in the community, not in the hospital; yet public awareness on how to detect and treat the condition is limited. (Sepsis Alliance: www.sepsis.org)

The Approach

IPRO conducted community based sepsis educational efforts in the Albany and Syracuse Hospital Referral Regions (HRRs) in NYS and the Charleston region of South Carolina, due to the high sepsis mortality rates in these regions. Utilizing evidence-based practices and materials, and aligning initiatives with mandatory New York State hospital sepsis protocols IPRO's approach targeted the healthcare professional community as well as the general public via the following:

Healthcare professionals and non-clinical staff across the continuum of care

- Train-the-trainer educational programs for clinical and non-clinical staff in multiple care settings (skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, physician practices, and dialysis centers)
- Physician education made available through the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians
- Collaboration with the Home Care Association of New York State to develop and facilitate statewide use of the Adult Sepsis Screening Tool, the first of its kind in the nation¹

The general public

- Focused community education and training on groups at high risk for developing sepsis
- Collaborations with leading national sepsis patient advocacy organizations such as The National Sepsis Alliance and The Rory Staunton Foundation, in addition to the New York State Department of Health
- Implementation of a comprehensive public awareness campaign via multiple media platforms, including television, radio, billboards, kiosks and distribution of educational materials and newsletters.

Sepsis Awareness Self-Management Zone Tool

Community Sepsis Awareness

continued

Results/Clinical Outcomes

IPRO's Community Based Sepsis Initiative has educated more than 10,000 people in the target regions of NY and SC on recognizing signs and symptoms of sepsis. In addition the initiative has driven significant decreases, from baseline data, for in-patient mortality and 30-day hospital readmission rates for sepsis, severe sepsis and septic shock in the target regions.

Change in Sepsis Mortality Rates for Medicare FFS (2015-2017)

Stage of Sepsis	Decrease in Overall Mortality Rate	Relative Improvement Over Baseline
Sepsis Only	-2.8%	32.9%
Severe Sepsis	-9.9%	46.2%
Septic Shock	-1.1%	2.7%

IPRO brings policy ideas to life

IPRO helps clients realize better health through its organizational competencies. We

- Support state and federal government agency problem solving
- Foster consensus among varied stakeholders for quality improvement action
- Evaluate and select most appropriate methodologies to investigate clinical quality problems
- Facilitate collaborative provider education and action
- Harness information technology to drive quality improvement
- Build and apply quality measures
- Collect and analyze data on large scale
- Create tools to assess performance



Sepsis awareness kiosk poster.

1. The Adult Sepsis Screening Tool and Protocol, developed in collaboration with the Home Care Association of NYS (HCA) Quality Council, is the first of its kind evidence based sepsis screening tool for use in the home healthcare setting. The HCA Adult Sepsis Screening Tool & Protocol is utilized by home health clinicians at every home visit to assess patients for the signs and symptoms of sepsis via an algorithm for clinical follow-up to the screen findings, a protocol for standardized clinical use of the screen and algorithm, and patient education.