

Protect your patients from **sepsis**.



How can I **get ahead of sepsis**?

- **Know sepsis signs and symptoms** to identify and treat patients early.
- **Act fast** if you suspect sepsis.
- **Prevent infections** by following infection control practices (e.g., hand hygiene, appropriate indwelling medical device management, communicating signs and symptoms of infection to the healthcare professional overseeing care of the patient, cleaning and disinfection).

What should I do if I **suspect sepsis**?

- **Know your department's guidance for diagnosing and managing sepsis.**
- **Immediately alert the healthcare professional overseeing care of the patient if it is not you.**
- **Gather the following information for the patients you are caring for and communicate it to hospital healthcare professionals:**
 - Medications
 - Allergies
 - Pre-existing conditions
 - Other risk factors
- **Antibiotics, as well as other therapies appropriate for the patient, need to be started as soon as possible.**
- **Check patient progress frequently.** Treatment requires urgent medical care, usually in an intensive care unit in a hospital, and includes careful monitoring of vital signs.



Sepsis is a medical emergency.

You play a critical role.

**Protect your patients by
acting fast.**

**With your fast recognition
and treatment,
most patients survive.**



**GET AHEAD
OF SEPSIS**

**KNOW THE RISKS.
SPOT THE SIGNS.
ACT FAST.**

Who is at risk for sepsis?

Anyone can develop sepsis, but some people are at higher risk for sepsis:

65+**Adults 65 or older****People with weakened immune systems****People with chronic conditions, such as diabetes, lung disease, cancer, and kidney disease****People with recent severe illness, surgery, or hospitalization****People who survived sepsis****Children younger than one****People who are pregnant or post-partum**

What are the signs and symptoms of sepsis?

A patient with sepsis might have one or more of the following signs or symptoms:

**High heart rate or low blood pressure****Fever, shivering, or feeling very cold****Confusion or disorientation****Shortness of breath****Extreme pain or discomfort****Clammy or sweaty skin**

You should immediately evaluate and treat patients who might have sepsis.

What causes sepsis?

Infections put your patients at risk for sepsis. Bacterial infections cause most cases of sepsis. The most frequently identified bacterial pathogens among people with sepsis include *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph), *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), and some types of *Streptococcus* (strep). Sepsis can also be a result of other infections, including viral infections, such as COVID-19 or influenza, or fungal infections. Infections that lead to sepsis most often start in the lung, urinary tract, skin, or gastrointestinal tract.

**Lung****Urinary tract****Skin****Gastrointestinal tract**

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Learn more at
cdc.gov/sepsis

