QUALITY AND SAFETY PRIORITIES:
CLINICAL LEADER SPREAD AND SUSTAINABILITY PACKAGE

SEVERE SEPSIS AND SEPTIC SHOCK (SEPSIS)
Our primary focus is prevention, early recognition and management of sepsis to improve outcomes and reduce mortality, readmissions and cost.

GOALS:
- Prevention of infection by reducing risk or eliminating unnecessary devices
- Increased awareness of sepsis signs and symptoms and collaboration among all healthcare workers
- Early identification and evidence-based management of sepsis leading to better outcomes and shorter length of stay (LOS)
- Improved quality of care for patients and more appropriate utilization of services leading to cost-effective care
- Reduction of readmission for sepsis

BEST PRACTICES:
Sepsis efforts at Ascension Health were refined with the help of 21 pilot sites across the System. The following interventions were tested and yielded positive results:
- Utilize a multi-disciplinary team that involves local physician and nursing champions to pave the way for early recognition of sepsis and the implementation of treatment protocols.
- Emphasize early detection and the Surviving Sepsis Campaign bundles to prevent sepsis progression and to streamline implementation of evidence-based best practices.
- Ensure regular evaluation of processes for the 3- and 6-hour bundle including compliance of bundle elements.

HEALTH MINISTRY ACTIONS:
- Ensure a multidisciplinary team for sepsis is incorporated into the regular work of the healthcare workers.
- Ensure a local clinical leader is responsible for sepsis efforts and ensure the appropriate stakeholders are engaged and accountable
- Integrate the process into the workflow, particularly use electronic medical records to promote best practices in sepsis management, in addition to early detection of sepsis.
- Ensure that spread of best practices to the ED, ICU, and non-ICUs.
- Evaluate process and outcome measures and promptly address any gaps in performance.

QUALITY IMPACT: PILOT SITE RESULTS

DESCRIPTION OF GRAPH:
Interim results show Ascension Health sepsis pilot site teams reduced the community onset sepsis mortality rate by 21% over the last three months. The pilots’ monthly rate is represented by the blue bars and the blue line shows the pilots’ 12-month rolling rate. Based on the achievements at the pilot sites, we are now spreading these practices to the rest of the Ascension Health System.