## SEPSIS DEATH

### Delay in treatment results in death of a child

Sepsis is very difficult to diagnose even in the best case and can depend on information from multiple diagnostic tools. When information from those tools is not shared between a patient’s caregivers, diagnosis can be delayed . . . sometimes with fatal results.

“I never knew that testing was done.”

-Patient’s pediatrician

### Analysis

**Basic Level Cause Map** - Start with simple Why questions.

**Patient Safety Goal Impacted**

- Patient death
- Severe septic shock
- Delay in treatment of sepsis

**Possible Solutions:**

- Protocol for injuries that occur at school
- Protocol for quickly identifying, treating sepsis

**Basic Cause-and-Effect**

Sepsis has a mortality rate of nearly 40%. Once it has progressed to a severe level, it can cause patient death, as it did in this case after treatment was delayed for a patient suffering from sepsis.

**More Detailed Cause Map** - Add detail as information becomes available.

**Patient Safety Goal Impacted**

- Patient death
- Severe septic shock
- Delay in treatment of sepsis

**Employee Impact Goal Impacted**

- Emotional impact to providers

**Organization Goal Impacted**

- Potential for lawsuit

**Intervention Insufficient**

- Patient cut arm
- Cut not cleaned?

**Possible Solutions:** Protocol for injuries that occur at school

- Delay in treatment of sepsis

**Organization Goal Impacted**

- Potential for lawsuit

**Intervention Insufficient**

- Patient (child) death
- Severe septic shock

**Possible Solutions:** Protocol for quickly identifying, treating sepsis

- Delay in treatment of sepsis

**Initial Misdiagnosis**

- Sepsis difficult to diagnose
- Symptoms similar to other less serious maladies

**Possible Solutions:**

- Protocol for documenting & sharing test results

**Impact to the Goals**

- Patient death
- Employee Impact
- Compliance
- Property, Equip, Mtls
- Labor, Time

**Frequency**

- 250,000 cases of sepsis annually, nearly 40% mortality rate

**National annual estimated cost $16.7 B**

### Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Cause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Protocol for injuries that occur at school</td>
<td>Cut not cleaned?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Protocol for action on lab results</td>
<td>No action by hospital after lab results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Protocol for quickly identifying, treating sepsis</td>
<td>Delay in treatment of sepsis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Protocol for documenting &amp; sharing test results</td>
<td>Test results not shared with all caregivers</td>
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</tbody>
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