

2025  
**OHA Excellence in Clinical Quality and Safety Awards**  
 Greater than 300 Beds Category

# OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center

## Sepsis Process Improvement

### Problem

The CMS SEP-1 bundle compliance rate for OUMC in FY 2023 was 32.8% and in FY 2024 was 38%, which are below the national benchmark of 57-60% and the Oklahoma benchmark of 52-53%.

### Goal

To improve overall CMS SEP-1 bundle compliance to meet or exceed the national benchmark of 60% consistently for six or more months by the end of March 2025.

### Interventions

OUMC identified interventions through utilization of the 8-Step methodology process.

- Updated Sepsis definition from SEP-1 to SEP-3.
- Updated the Sepsis algorithm reference document.
- Reviewed Sepsis charts within 72 hours to identify opportunities for improvement.
- Provided educational during huddles and departmental rounds.
- Provided physician education at monthly meetings and during departmental rounds.
- Sepsis education added to newly develop ED Boot Camps.
- Epic Optimization:
- Sepsis Predictive Model Score added as a column to ED track board.
- Sepsis notification added to storyboard.
- Revised Sepsis panel order set to improve ED providers utilization.
- Added Sepsis screening to Triage Navigator.
- Developed smart phrases for providers to capture sepsis time zero and sepsis reassessment.

### Results

The SEP-1 bundle compliance rate for OUMC has been consistently above 80% for 10 months with two months (February and May 2025) at 100% compliance.

### Lessons Learned

- Utilization of SEP-3 definition and algorithmic process for bundle components were key.
- Education of nursing and provider staff continue to be key engagement activities.

### Sustainability

- Provide ongoing monitoring by Clinical Nurse Specialist.
- Provide ongoing nursing and provider education for all new staff.
- Identify Sepsis Coordinator / Sepsis Program Manager / Associate Director for Sepsis that would have oversight of sepsis initiatives over all adult services vs only focusing on Emergency Services.
- Epic optimization:
- Sepsis Alerts: add in Epic Sepsis Predictive Model value and definition as to why the alert is activating along with simple instructions on what to do.
- Expand sepsis initiatives to all adult EDs and inpatient service areas.



### Improvement Team

Photo: Katherine Espy BSN, RN, Clinical Management Consultant; Colton Petrea RN, Flow Coordinator (formerly Coordinator Quality II); Marcia S. Cornell DNP, APRN-CNS, RN, ACNS-BC, NPD-BC, CEN, TCRN, FCNS, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult Emergency Services; and Mark Harris BSMAE, LSSBB, Managing Consultant.

