**Sepsis Fact Sheet**

**Definition:** Sepsis is the body’s overwhelming response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, amputations, and death.

**Who it Hurts:** While sepsis is more likely to affect very young children, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and those with a weakened immune system, sepsis is an equal-opportunity killer impacting people of all ages and levels of health.

**Prevention:** The risk of sepsis can be reduced by preventing infections, practicing good hygiene, and staying current with vaccinations.

**Treatment:** Sepsis is a medical emergency that requires urgent attention and rapid treatment for survival. Sepsis can be treated and, in many instances, lives are saved by using existing and proven protocols.

**Recovery:** Many individuals fully recover from sepsis, while many others are left with long-lasting effects, such as missing limbs or organ dysfunction, like kidney failure. Other after-effects of sepsis are less obvious, such as memory loss, anxiety, or depression.

**Symptoms:** Symptoms of sepsis include:

- **S** – Shivering, fever, or very cold
- **E** – Extreme pain or general discomfort (“worst ever”)
- **P** – Pale of discolored skin
- **S** – Sleepy, difficult to rouse, confused
- **I** – “I feel like I might die”
- **S** – Shortness of breath

If you **suspect sepsis** (observe a combination of these symptoms), see your medical professional immediately, CALL 911, or go to a hospital with an advocate and say, **“I AM CONCERNED ABOUT SEPSIS.”**

**Critical Facts:**

- Sepsis is the leading cause of death in U.S. hospitals.¹
- 62% of people hospitalized with sepsis are re-hospitalized within 30 days.²
- As many as 92% of sepsis cases originate in the community.³
- Mortality from sepsis increases 8% for every hour that treatment is delayed. As many as 80% of sepsis deaths could be prevented with rapid diagnosis and treatment.⁴
Human Cost:

- Sepsis affects over 26 million people worldwide each year and is the largest killer of children – more than 5 million each year.\(^5\)
- More than 1.6 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year – one every 20 seconds and the incidence is rising 8% every year.\(^6,7\)
- 258,000 people die from sepsis every year in the U.S. – one every 2 minutes; more than from prostate cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined.\(^8,9\)
- More than 42,000 children develop severe sepsis each year and 4,400 of these children die, more than from pediatric cancers.\(^10\)
- Sepsis causes at least 75,000 maternal deaths every year worldwide and is driving increases in pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S.\(^11,12\)
- Every day, 38 sepsis patients require amputations\(^13\)
- Sepsis survivors have a shortened life expectancy, are more likely to suffer from an impaired quality of life, and are 42% more likely to commit suicide.\(^14,15\)

Economic Cost:

- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. consuming more than $24 billion each year.\(^16\)
- The average cost per hospital stay for sepsis is $18,400, double the average cost per stay across all other conditions.\(^17\)
- Sepsis is the #1 cause for readmissions to the hospital costing more than $2 billion each year\(^18\)

Awareness:

- Just 55% of U.S. adults have heard of sepsis.\(^17\)

Sources:

5. http://www.g-i-n.net/conference/10th-conference/monday/2-45-pm-to-5-45-pm/lang-63.pdf

To find out more please visit Sepsis.org