



The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging

About Sepsis:

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. It takes a life every 90 seconds (350,000 adults each year in the U.S.)¹, and over 80% of these deaths may be preventable¹. Also, **sepsis is a disproportionate threat to older adults**⁴.

The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging (TPSA):

Sepsis Alliance, The New York State Office for the Aging, the Association on Aging, and the Home Care Association of New York State, have been working hard in New York State to reduce the impact and burden of sepsis, and to raise sepsis awareness among communities of older adults and the healthcare professionals who serve them.

Given the breadth of the problem, a **national scale effort is needed** for sepsis and older adults. And no one is better positioned to lead this movement than our state aging departments, local aging network providers, and health and social services partners working in partnership with Sepsis Alliance, the nation's first and leading sepsis patient advocacy organization.

To mobilize a national sepsis aging effort, Sepsis Alliance and state aging leaders have established **The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging (TPSA)**, a national coalition of partners dedicated to healthy aging and protecting our nation's older adults from sepsis. TPSA will share resources across stakeholders, invite and encourage collaboration across its partners, and discover and fill gaps in education and care. TPSA will be comprised of state and national aging leaders who will coordinate their state and local aging services networks toward sepsis education, prevention, and system interventions for older individuals, including collaboration with health care professionals, and other partner organizations in their communities, including care site facilities.

Sepsis Facts:

- Sepsis impacts 1.7 million individuals and families (one every 90 seconds) and takes the lives of 350,000 adults in the U.S. each year.¹
- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospital and skilled nursing care in the U.S. at \$62 billion each year.¹
- 87% of all sepsis cases are community acquired.¹

- Sepsis is the #1 cause of death in hospitals (35% of all deaths are attributable to sepsis).¹
- Sepsis is the #1 cause of hospital readmissions with 40% of survivors requiring readmission with 90 days from discharge.²
- More than half of sepsis survivors report lasting physical, cognitive and/or psychological challenges.²
- Sepsis awareness among the public is low, with only 63% having heard the term and just 15% having knowledge of the most common symptoms.³
- Sepsis can be preventable (infection prevention is sepsis prevention) and treatable in most cases with early diagnosis and treatment.³
- Healthcare professionals and systems are not all adequately trained or positioned to recognize, diagnose, and treat sepsis.⁴
- Black and other non-white populations have nearly twice the incidence of sepsis as white individuals.³

The Impact on Older Adults:

- **Sepsis disproportionately impacts older adults with more than 70% of cases occurring in individuals aged 60 or older.**⁴
- **Older sepsis survivors (65+) experience on average 1 to 2 new limitations on activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, dressing, managing money) after hospitalization.**⁴
- **Adults aged 65 and older are 13 times more likely to be hospitalized with sepsis than people younger than 65.**⁴

TPSA will invite collaboration from major national health and public health organizations such as the American Medical Society, the American Hospital Association, the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, the American Nurses Association, as well as national and state level senior advocacy and service organizations.

Our Vision - A nation in which our older adults and their families are protected from sepsis.

Our Mission - To improve the health and well-being of our nation's older adults and their families by convening and catalyzing sepsis awareness, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment programs, including support for the millions of sepsis survivors and their families who often face significant struggles in their recovery.

Program activities are anticipated to include but not be limited to:

1. Regular virtual (and in-person) meetings of TPSA to ensure communication to and feedback from members across the states.
2. Dissemination of public, patient, and caregiver education materials.

3. Dissemination of healthcare professional training materials, as well as point-of-care screening and intervention protocols and tools, and train-the-trainer dissemination programs.
4. Development of a resource hub that can be accessed by all members.
5. Development of new education and training materials based on needs and opportunities across the states.
6. Establishment of a research agenda to identify gaps in our understanding of sepsis and its impact on older adults.
7. Establishment of Quality Improvement programs that can be implemented in care settings across the nation (i.e. skilled nursing facilities, home health, rehabilitation centers) including better coordination of health system partners in timely and effective sepsis response.
8. Policy briefings and advocacy action on matters important to the health of older adults.

3 Year Goals:

1. Expand TPSA membership to more than 100 participants representing at least 25 states.
2. Distribute sepsis education to more than 1 million older adults.
3. Raise national awareness of sepsis among adults 55+ to 75% (from 69%).
4. Reduce the awareness gap between medically underserved communities by 10%.
5. Train more than 10,000 healthcare professionals on sepsis and aging clinical guidelines and tools for intervention.
6. Convene four research roundtables on sepsis and aging and publish a whitepaper on the findings.
7. Develop Quality Improvement initiatives for relevant points of care including skilled nursing, home health, rehabilitation, senior centers, and EMS.

About TPSA Partners and Leadership:

Sepsis Alliance:

Sepsis Alliance, a leading patient advocacy organization, is saving lives and reducing suffering by improving sepsis awareness and care. Through [Sepsis.org](https://www.sepsis.org), [Sepsis Alliance Institute](https://www.sepsis.org/institute), [Sepsis Alliance Voices](https://www.sepsis.org/voices), [Sepsis Alliance Connect](https://www.sepsis.org/connect), and [Sepsis Innovation Collaborative](https://www.sepsis.org/innovation), Sepsis Alliance is providing healthcare professionals, the general public, and those touched by sepsis with the education, support, and advocacy to save lives and limbs. Sepsis Alliance is enacting and influencing positive change for the 1.7 million people diagnosed with sepsis each year in the U.S. Infection prevention is sepsis prevention. For more information on Sepsis Alliance, a GuideStar Platinum Rated and Charity Navigator Four-Star rated 501(c)3 charity, visit [Sepsis.org](https://www.sepsis.org).

New York State Office for the Aging:

The New York State Office for the Aging's (NYSOFA's) home and community-based programs provide older adults with access to a well-planned, coordinated package of in-home and other supportive services designed to support and supplement informal care. NYSOFA's overall goal is to improve access to, and availability of, appropriate and cost-effective non-medical support services for older individuals to maximize their ability to age in their community and avoid higher levels of care and publicly financed care. NYSOFA achieves this through our network of 59 area agencies on aging.

The Association on Aging in New York:

The mission of the Association is to support and enhance the capacity of New York's local Area Agencies on Aging and to work in collaboration with the aging network to promote independence, preserve dignity, and advocate on the behalf of aging New Yorkers and their families.

The Home Care Association of New York State (HCA):

HCA is a statewide nonprofit health association comprised of over 300 organizations including and health care providers (hospitals, nursing facilities, individual agencies, hospices, consumer directed care, waiver programs) and health plans providing home and community based-care (skilled, primary/preventive, medically complex, chronic, and end-of-life) to several hundred thousand New Yorkers annually. HCA's mission is to support the quality and accessibility of health care and support at home. HCA also conducts comprehensive state/national legislative, budget, and regulatory advocacy, conducts research and development, collaborates with health care sectors across the continuum to promote health access, quality, system performance and public health, and conducts multiple statewide health initiatives through its 501(c)(3) affiliate, HCA Education and Research (HCA E&R). HCA developed and hosts the "Stop Sepsis At Home NY" initiative that includes the development of a sepsis screening and intervention tool for use in home and community health settings, along with the clinical corresponding algorithm, protocol, and patient education zone tool (contributed by the IPRO Quality Improvement Organization), and conducts training for providers, health plans, other service organizations and clinicians in New York State and elsewhere in the US for use and adoption of the home health sepsis tools. HCA also was awarded and led the statewide grant initiative "Improving Sepsis Prevention Screening and Intervention in the Community and Across the Continuum," as well as related initiatives in infection control and prevention, pediatric sepsis screening and intervention, and sepsis training for direct support/direct care staff, among other. HCA is led by Al Cardillo, President & CEO. Cardillo is also a member of the Sepsis Alliance Advisory Board.

How can individuals and organizations participate?

Aging organizations and interested individuals can join The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging as a member cost free. For more information contact Sepsis Alliance CEO, Thomas Heymann at theymann@sepsis.org.

Funding Support:

To succeed in its mission to improve care for older adults, The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging requires financial investment to run the life-saving programs that will help our states improve care for their older adults and support for their families. TPSA will work with foundations, government agencies and other private funding sources to support its important work. Additionally, sponsor partnerships with industry leaders will be pursued.

To learn more about funding opportunities, please contact: Thomas Heymann, Sepsis Alliance, President and CEO at theymann@sepsis.org

Citations:

1. Sepsis Alliance. *Sepsis Fact Sheet*. 2023. <https://www.sepsis.org/education/resources/fact-sheets/>
2. Sepsis Alliance. *Post Sepsis Syndrome*. 2024. <https://www.sepsis.org/sepsis-basics/post-sepsis-syndrome/>
3. Sepsis Alliance. *Sepsis Awareness Annual Survey*. 2023. <https://www.sepsis.org/news/sepsis-alliance-reinforces-call-for-national-sepsis-action-plan-as-awareness-of-the-term-sepsis-dips-to-63/>
4. Sepsis Alliance. *Sepsis and Aging Fact Sheet*. 2022. <https://www.sepsis.org/education/resources/fact-sheets/>