

# ***The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging (TPSA)***

***Protecting the Lives and Well Being of our Nation's  
Older Adults***

September 20, 2024

# The Partnership for Sepsis and Aging (TPSA)

*Mission: To improve the health and well-being of the nation's older adults by improving sepsis awareness, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment, including support for the millions of sepsis survivors who may face significant struggles in their recovery.*

- Sepsis takes the lives of 350,000 adults each year in the U.S.
- Sepsis disproportionately impacts older adults with more than 70% of cases occurring in individuals aged 60 or older.
- Nursing home residents are 6 times more likely to present with sepsis in the emergency department.

**To learn more visit:**

<https://www.sepsis.org/the-partnership-for-sepsis-and-aging-tpsa/>

To become an organization member,  
scan the QR code below



Office for  
the Aging

**HCANYS**  
Home Care Association of New York State

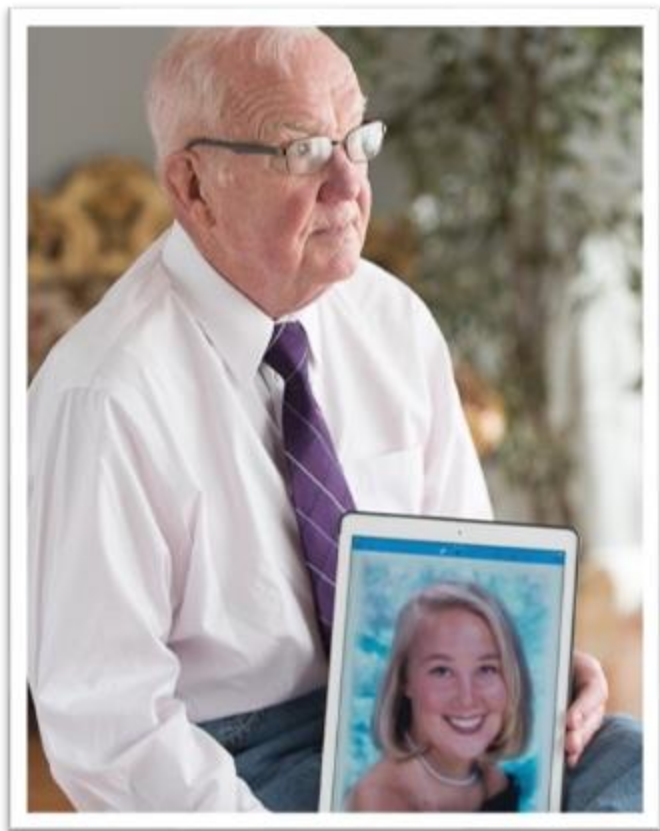


Association on  
**AGING**  
in New York



To learn more about Sepsis and Aging,  
scan the QR code below

**Today's Agenda & Welcome - Greg Olsen**  
**About Sepsis, Sepsis Alliance - Tom Heymann**  
**Sepsis Awareness Month – Tom Heymann**  
**Sepsis and Infection Prevention - Claudia Orth**  
**Sepsis and Home Health - Al Cardillo**  
**Discussion – Greg Olsen**



Sepsis Alliance Founder Carl Flatley, DDS, MSD, with daughter, Erin

# About Sepsis Alliance

**FOUNDED IN 2007**

- Started out of a personal tragedy and national need
- Nation's first and leading sepsis patient advocacy organization
- Co-founded Global Sepsis Alliance 2010
- Serving the needs and interests of sepsis patients and survivors
- Trusted partner to patients, healthcare providers, researchers, government, and industry
- Vision: A world in which nobody is harmed by sepsis.

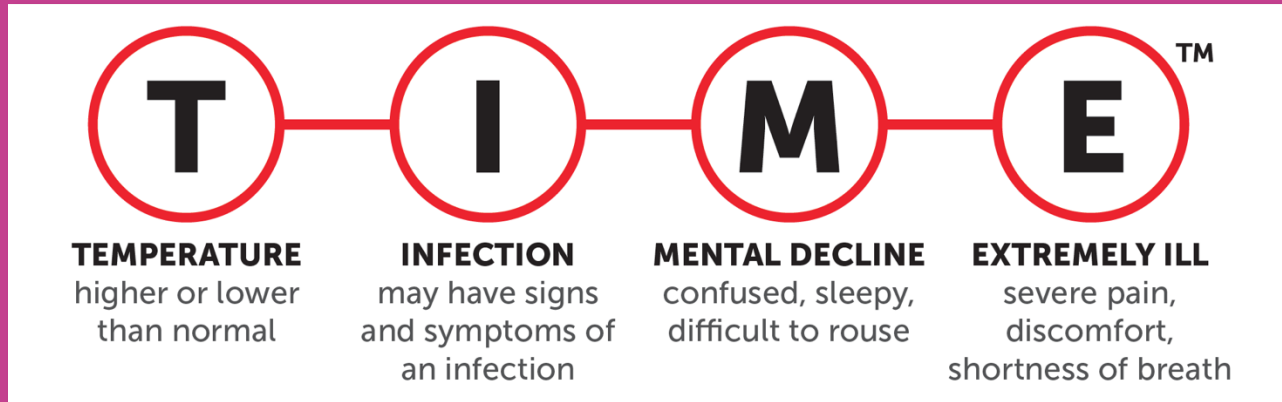


Sepsis Alliance earns top rankings from Great Nonprofits, Guidestar, and Charity Navigator for transparency and accountability.



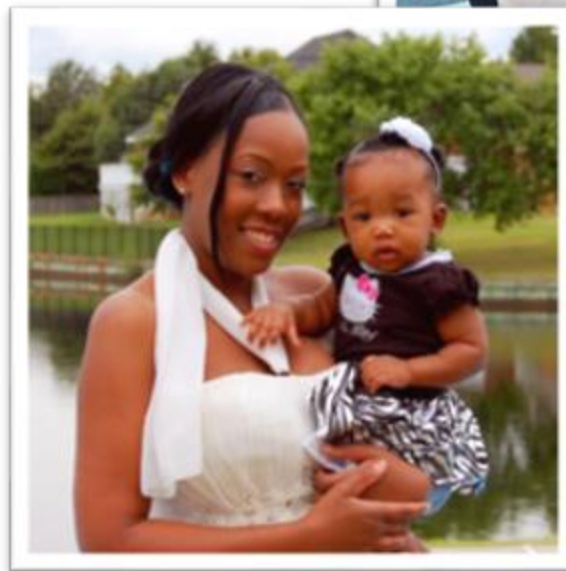
# Sepsis

Is a life-threatening emergency that happens when your body's response to an infection damages vital organs and, often, causes death.



# The Burden of Sepsis in the U.S.

- Sepsis is the **#1** cause of deaths in U.S. hospitals.
- Sepsis is the **#1** cost of hospital and skilled nursing care - **\$62B/year!**
- Sepsis is the **#1** cause of hospital readmissions.
- Yet, **87%** of sepsis originates in home and community, highlighting the urgency of prevention, early identification and treatment, and home health role!
- Sepsis causes **14,000** amputations annually.
- Almost **60%** of sepsis survivors experience worsened cognitive, mental, and/or physical function.
- Maternal sepsis is the **2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause** of maternal death in the U.S.
- Each day more than 200 children are diagnosed with severe sepsis – **75,000** cases per year. 18 die each day.
- Black and "other nonwhite" individuals have nearly twice the incidence of sepsis as white individuals.



# The Burden of Sepsis on Older Adults

- Adults aged 65 and older are **13 times more likely to be hospitalized** with sepsis than people younger than 65.
- Nursing home residents are over **6 times more likely** to present with sepsis in the emergency room than non-nursing home residents.
- Adults aged 65 and older are **less likely to return home** (54%) following their hospital stay.
- 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.
- Sepsis survivors aged 65 and older experience **more severe long-term cognitive and physical disability**.
- In the United States, **three-fourths of all sepsis deaths** are in patients 65 years of age or older.



# Sepsis Superhero Challenge

- A virtual event empowering advocates around the globe to come together during the entire month of September, Sepsis Awareness Month.
- 2,700+ participants since 2017.
- Launched on August 15, 2024.
- Be one of the Sepsis Awareness Superheroes the world needs by participating in this FREE event.
- It's not too late to be a Sepsis Superhero! Register today at [SepsisSuperheroes.org](https://sepsissuperheroes.org)!

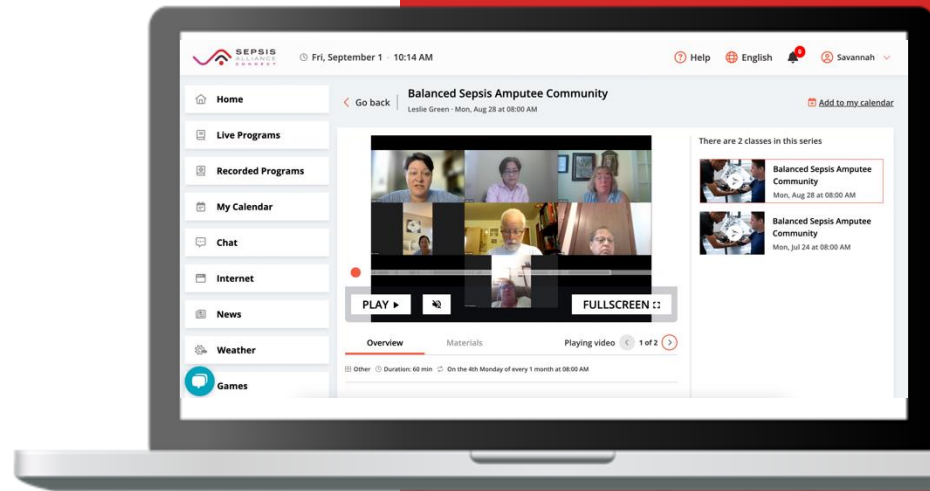




# Sepsis Alliance Connect

*SepsisConnect.org*

- Virtual support community designed for the millions of people affected by sepsis annually, including survivors, caregivers, and those who lost a loved one.
- Launched in June 2022 with the support of bioMérieux and LB Charitable Foundation.
- More than 2,000 members to date.



# Sepsis Alliance Voices

*SepsisVoices.org*

- Sepsis Alliance Voices: expansion into the policy and advocacy arena.
- Working to impact sepsis-related policies, laws, and regulations in the United States at local, state, and national levels.
- Grassroots action center, free webinars and resources, and more.





# INFECTION PREVENTION IS SEPSIS PREVENTION™

Learn more about how you can help prevent infection  
and fight sepsis at [SepsisAwarenessMonth.org](https://www.SepsisAwarenessMonth.org).

# Sepsis and Flu: Vaccination Education for Older Adults and Their Families

- Sepsis Alliance is developing a suite of materials for agencies serving older adults, including but not limited to assisted living and long-term care.
- These materials will guide older adult patients and their families toward greater awareness and understanding of flu information, risks, and prevention, and the connection between flu and sepsis.
- Packaged materials will be available for free to a limited number of agencies.
- Materials are expected to ship in late 2024.



# Influenza Education Materials for Older Adults

- 77% of adults don't believe or don't know the flu can progress to sepsis (2024 Sepsis Alliance survey).
- Each free suite of materials will include:
  - 5 posters for display in common areas like community rooms and elevators.
  - 50 brochures for older adults who are managing their own healthcare.
  - 50 brochures for the loved ones of older adults who are supporting them with medical decisions.
- Digital files of the above materials will be available should additional copies be needed.

# To Express Interest in Receiving Flu Materials

- 100 free packages of materials will be available in this grant-funded program.
- Interested agencies can express interest using the QR code, or at <https://forms.office.com/r/x0bw1hXzXp>.
- Questions may be directed to [mjones@sepsis.org](mailto:mjones@sepsis.org).

Sepsis and Flu: Vaccination  
Education for Older Adults and  
Their Families





# 2024 SEPSIS ALLIANCE SUMMIT

**SEPTEMBER 25-27**  
**SEPSISSUMMIT.ORG**

# **Stop Sepsis At Home Initiative**

**– Intervention at the Community Level**

**NY's Home Care Sepsis Screening & Intervention Tool**







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## Significance of Sepsis and Home Care

- Key Fact: 87% of sepsis cases originate in the home and community.
- The high-risk populations for sepsis are mirrored in the home care population.
  - Older adults
  - Chronically ill
  - Persons with disabilities
  - The very young; especially medically fragile children
  - Individuals with compromised immune systems
  - Individuals with recurrent UTI and pneumonia
  - Others routinely within home care's service scope and reach (e.g., post-surgical maternal and neonatal care).



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- Home care's unique position and credentials make it an all the more compelling role player in the sepsis effort. These include:
  - Home care clinicians are in homes and in communities.
  - Home care clinicians are expert educators, screeners, evaluators, interveners, and system navigators.
  - Home care is a patient- and culturally-centered, and cost-effective vehicle.
  - Home and community is the growing and future milieu of care.
- How can home care agencies, aging network service organizations, community health centers and other home and community-based service providers respond?



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## Development of the HCA's Stop Sepsis At Home Initiative & Home Care Sepsis Screening & Intervention Tool

- Starting in 2010, upon Sepsis Alliance outreach, HCA began to explore sepsis in home care. HCA intensified efforts in 2014 to determine home care role in sepsis prevention and intervention.
- Research across the country indicated there were no models related to sepsis and home health care.
- HCA engaged sepsis clinical experts in a workgroup, including state/national leaders (Sepsis Alliance, END SEPSIS, IPRO QIO, CDC, other) to develop a strategic work plan.
- The clinical workgroup, with wide consultation, developed and drafted a clinical screening and assessment tool for home care; beta tested, vetted, and refined the tool.
  - As part of this process, IPRO/QIO under its CMS chartered sepsis initiative, utilized and vetted the tool in the training of 10,000+ NY clinicians, incorporating the experience in the final tool.
- HCA officially launched the sepsis tool for availability and adoption in March 2017.
- A pediatric iteration was created and launched 2021 – 2023.



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# What is HCA Home Care Sepsis Screening & Intervention Tool & Related Instruments & How Do they All Work?

- Screening Tool & Related Suite of Instruments
  - Screening Tool Components
    - Infection Status
    - Systemic Criteria
    - New Onset Organ Dysfunction
    - Follow-up
    - Interventions
  - Algorithm
  - Protocol
  - Patient Education Zone tool
- Training Module for Clinicians
- Training Module for Direct Care Staff
- Related Resources
  - Patient/Family Infection Prevention & Control Training & Tools
  - Home Care Maternal & Infant Sepsis Training and Tools
  - Translation of Patient/Family Education Zone Tools in 11 Languages



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# HCA SEPSIS SCREENING TOOL

## Screening Tool

A screenshot of the HCA Sepsis Screening Tool form, which is a structured document with various sections for patient information, clinical assessment, and decision-making. It includes checkboxes and text boxes for recording data.

## Algorithm



## Zone Tool

A screenshot of the HCA Sepsis Zone Tool form, which is a color-coded decision aid. It uses a traffic light system (green, yellow, red) to indicate the severity of the patient's condition and the required level of intervention.

## Protocol

A screenshot of the HCA Sepsis Protocol form, which provides detailed clinical guidelines and procedures for the management of sepsis. It includes specific instructions for assessment, documentation, and intervention.

## Authorized Use

To control for quality and use standards, the authorized access to or use of the HCA pediatric sepsis tool is permitted only via use agreement with HCA. Please note that it is illegal to use, copy, and/or distribute the tool for clinical or business use without the express written permission of the Home Care Association, Inc.



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# Accessing the Sepsis Tool & Resources

Contact [sepsistool@hcanys.org](mailto:sepsistool@hcanys.org)

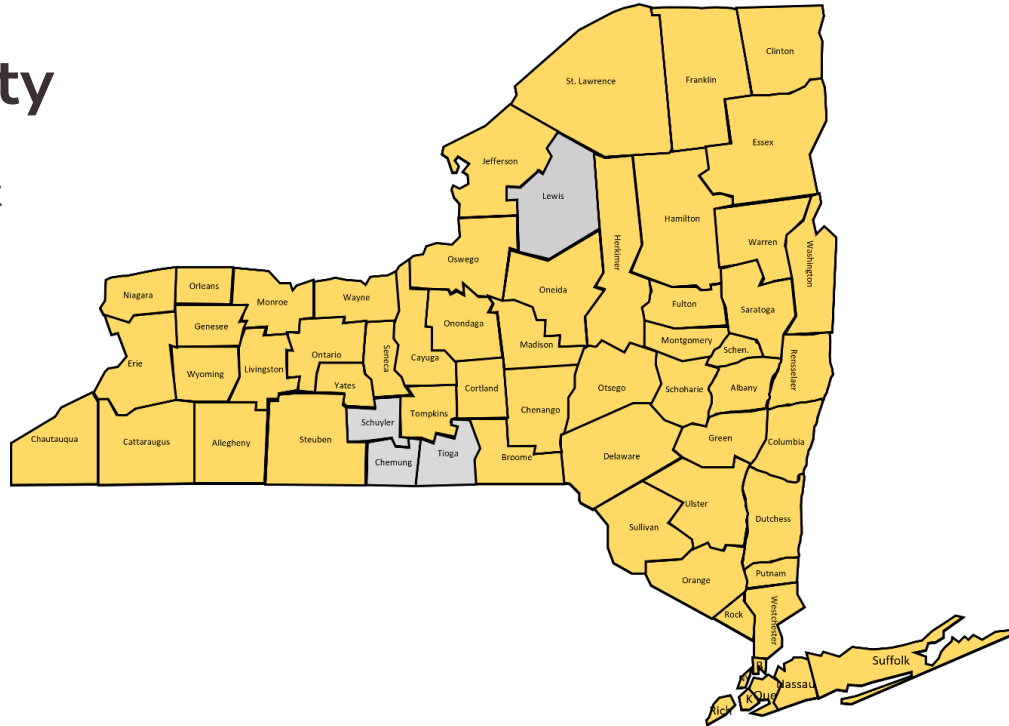
## Prerequisites

Use authorization granted to providers via user agreement ([sepsistool@hcanys.org](mailto:sepsistool@hcanys.org)) that confirms the prerequisites and strict adherence to use standards.

- Completion of HCA training on the tool and on sepsis substantively.
- Agreement to use the tool and protocol as provided, included in embedded EHR format.
- Agreement not to distribute the tool to unauthorized users.
- Participation in data/experience sharing.



58 out of 62 NYS counties have at least one home care agency that has trained and been authorized for the sepsis tool.





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# HOME CARE SEPSIS INITIATIVE RESULTS TO DATE

- Agencies achieving earlier sepsis identification and timely treatment.
  - A study of cases served by HCR Home Care in Rochester, NY, of **over 7,000** cases regularly screened with the HCA home care sepsis tool, showed that, of those identified as meeting sepsis criteria, **69.2% were successfully treated** in collaboration by the patient's physician and the home care clinicians, **avoiding hospitalization completely**.





- A study by the Visiting Nurse Service of New York showed similar patterns in avoidance of rehospitalizations.
  - The study found that sepsis survivors who received a first nursing visit within two days of hospital discharge plus at least one additional home visit in their first post-hospital week, and who also saw a doctor in that first week, reduced their probability of 30-day all-cause readmissions by seven percentage points.



- Creation of primary pre-hospital layer for sepsis screening, prevention, early intervention.
  - Near statewide geographic implementation accomplished.
  - Hundreds of thousands of screens being conducted for risk, prevention, early treatment, and ongoing as part of system.
  - Significant new sepsis trained health workforce statewide.
  - Goal is for every home care agency and every community health setting in the continuum to adopt the screening and intervention tool.



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- Agencies report additional cost avoidance and improved outcome potential through overall greater awareness and screening for infection risk via tool, increased preventive education with patients/families, increased identification of associated high-risk conditions (e.g., UTI, fever), focus on sepsis readmission avoidance, LTC avoidance/mitigation.
- Model being applied to other settings and populations (e.g., group homes for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults, hospice, assisted living, etc.)
- Model being replicated in other states by associations, health systems, agencies, organizations.
- Sepsis Alliance national education and level-I training video documentary produced on tool.

# Discussion and Q & A

# The Partnership For Sepsis and Aging (TPSA)

## Thank you!

For more information,  
contact [Info@Sepsis.org](mailto:Info@Sepsis.org)

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organization  
member,  
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To learn more  
about Sepsis and  
Aging,  
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