

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

Sepsis Bundles Lower Mortality Rates and Length of Stay

Sepsis is a severe blood infection that can affect every organ of the body. It is the leading cause of death in U.S. hospitals and affects 750,000 patients each year with a mortality rate of 20 - 40 percent. Sepsis is known to lead to extended lengths of stay and high readmission rates.

As part of a national project through the High Value Healthcare Collaborative (HVHC), MMC is one of more than 900 hospitals working to reduce sepsis.

Sepsis is the most common

DRG (diagnosis-related group) in the Adult Medicine Service Line at MMC. Approximately 38 patients each day at MMC have sepsis, and the average length of stay for patients with sepsis is 6.96 days.

Early recognition and aggressive treatment of sepsis, particularly in its early stages, leads to better patient care, saves lives, and reduces the cost of care. Rapid implementation of the proper sepsis “bundle” (a checklist of steps based on best practices implemented as soon as a patient is diag-

nosed) is key to treating the infection promptly for better outcomes. A delay in treatment with antibiotics causes an increase in mortality.

The MMC sepsis quality improvement team began its intervention in 2012. In just two years, they saw marked improvements in outcomes for sepsis patients:

- Mortality dropped from 19.8 percent to 10.9 percent. Length of stay went from an average 7.0 days to 5.7 days

- Increased early intervention to 70 percent
- Total cost of care per patient decreased by 14 percent

Carrying on these improvements will require a broad collaboration with caregivers across the health care spectrum, says Sue Goran, Director of Nursing, SCU.

“MMC has made significant improvements in the outcomes for patients with sepsis by decreasing mortality and length of stay,”

Continued on back

Visit From Santa Brings Gifts and Good Cheer to BBCH



On December 10, Santa and his helper, Dennis the Elf, visited The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital. The pair brought gifts for each child, and patients and their families were treated to pizza and ice cream.

The annual visit is sponsored by Saco/Biddeford Savings Bank.

At left: Patient Trey and his mom Megan thank Santa and Dennis for the Elmo doll they gave to Trey.

Facebook Kudos

See what visitors are saying about us on Facebook ...

"The nurses on seventh floor are loving, caring ... thank you so much. I also wish to thank all of the doctors that were involved with my husband's care – especially the ones that gave me comfort when he was taken from me."

"[MMC volunteers] always do such a wonderful job."

"My husband and I were absolutely impressed with how we were treated with regard to his back operation. Everyone from admitting to the person who wheeled him out after he was released was caring, positive, and pleasant."

"I would like to thank all the doctors, nurses, and CNAs for taking such good care of me."

"Thank you, MMC NICU staff, for your excellent care of my granddaughter."

"I was at MMC in Emergency for 7 hours yesterday. I was totally impressed by the kind, competent, and compassionate staff ... doctors, nurses, and aides. I was treated with respect and listened to, which is rare in a hospital setting."

"I highly recommend MMC. Especially impressive is the hand-washing routine. Every member of the staff washes hands before and after entering a room."

"Angie and John in NICU and Noel in the PICU clearly love their work and are amazing. Thank you, MMC."

*"Sepsis Bundles"
from front*

Goran says. "Now we need our colleagues from long-term care, skilled nursing homes, primary care offices, EMS, and others in the community to help us educate and identify our providers, first responders, and others who will see and touch patients with sepsis. By working together, we can continue to improve quality of life, while preventing readmissions and

reducing chronic illness."

Samir Haydar, D.O., Director of Quality Improvement, agrees and says input from other caregivers is invaluable.

"We're always looking for ways to make clinical management of this fragile patient population as intuitive and easy as possible for the treating providers," says Haydar. "We welcome any advice or input."

Got Holiday Pics?

Receptions, parties, office decorations – send us your MMC holiday photos.

Email photos and captions to mmcnews@mmc.org.

Look for your pics in an upcoming *What's Happening* or on the MMC Intranet.

Happy Holidays!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Comments, questions, and story ideas:
Chelsea Miller, Communications Specialist
(207)662-4096 millec7@mmc.org