

Sepsis Fact Sheet

- Sepsis is a complication caused by the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection. It can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.
- Every year, sepsis strikes more than a million Americans.¹
- It's been estimated that between 28 and 50% of these people die¹, greater than 280,000 – far more than the number of US deaths from breast cancer, stroke, and auto accidents, combined.
- Sepsis is difficult to diagnose. It happens quickly and can be confused with other conditions early on.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sepsis is a medical emergency.²
- Sepsis accounted for over \$24 billion in healthcare expenditures in the US in 2013.³
- When sepsis is quickly recognized and treated, lives can be saved.
- Anyone can get sepsis, but people with weakened immune systems, children, infants, and the elderly are most at risk. People with chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, AIDS, cancer, and kidney or liver disease, as well as people who have experienced burn and trauma, are also at increased risk.
- Four types of infections most commonly associated with sepsis include: infections of the lung, urinary tract, skin, and gut (gastrointestinal tract).²
- Common germs that can cause sepsis are *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli* (E coli), and some types of *Streptococcus*.²

Signs and Symptoms of Sepsis include:²

- * *Fever, shivering or very cold*
- * *Extreme pain or discomfort*
- * *Clammy or sweaty skin*
- * *Confusion or disorientation*
- * *Shortness of breath*
- * *High heart rate*

References:

1. Martin, G.S. (2012). Sepsis, Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock: Changes in Incidence, Pathogens and Outcomes. *Expert Review of Anti-infective Therapy*. 10(6): 701-706.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016) Sepsis. Retrieved on 10/2/2016 from <http://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/index.html>.
3. The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (2016). National Inpatient Hospital Costs: The Most Expensive Conditions by Payer, 2013. Statistical Brief #204. Retrieved on 10/2/2016 from http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb204-Most-Expensive-Hospital-Conditions.jsp?utm_source=AHRQ&utm_medium=AHRQSTAT&utm_content=Content&utm_term=HCUP&utm_campaign=AHRQ_SB_204_2016.