

Colorado State Sepsis Initiative

Objective

To reduce sepsis mortality in Colorado, saving over 10,000 lives and \$200 million in lower healthcare costs over the next five years.

Summary

Sepsis kills over 3,000 Coloradans annually, more than breast cancer, stroke, and automobile accidents combined. Timely diagnosis, along with the administration of IV antibiotics and fluids, can reduce the mortality rate by 50% or more. These are simple solutions that can be implemented quickly with focused healthcare community efforts.

The Coalition for Sepsis Survival (C4SS) has four key initiatives: 1) Public Awareness, 2) Research, 3) Hospital & Healthcare Provider Grants, and 4) Sepsis Partner Award Program.

Public Awareness: Sepsis is the third leading cause of death in the US. However, 50% of the US population has never heard the word. This may account for greater than 80% of sepsis patients presenting to hospital ERs, often at the end stage of their medical condition, where mortality increases at 8% every hour a sepsis diagnosis is delayed. In August 2016, C4SS initiated a twelve-month Public Service Announcement program that is airing on over 230 Colorado radio and TV stations to educate the public in recognizing the symptoms of sepsis.

Research: Across the US, the sepsis hospital mortality rates vary from less than 10% to over 40%. Within Colorado, the reported sepsis hospital mortality varies from a low of 7.3% to a high of 35.6%. C4SS is sponsoring a statewide study, the Colorado Hospital Sepsis Survival Study, to determine the factors behind the wide variance in mortality and to identify practical solutions that individual hospitals can cost-effectively implement for reducing sepsis mortality and morbidity.

Hospital & Healthcare Provider Grants: Regardless of a hospital's or a healthcare provider's financial condition, C4SS plans to offer education grants and low-cost financing to assist hospitals in implementing sepsis performance improvement programs.

Sepsis Partner Award Program: C4SS will financially reward hospitals that significantly reduce sepsis mortality and improve their sepsis clinical performance in order to meet healthcare industry best demonstrated practices.

Funding

C4SS is a non-profit organization founded by Mr. and Mrs. William Younkes, who have provided the initial funding. C4SS estimates that \$12 million in funding, or \$1,200 per patient life saved, will enable Colorado to reduce the State's average sepsis mortality rate from 17.5% to less than 15%, making Colorado number one in the US with the lowest sepsis mortality rate.

C4SS is not seeking funding from State or Federal sources. We believe fighting sepsis is a community objective where we all must work together. Accordingly, we are seeking funding from the Colorado community, including hospitals, charitable healthcare focused trusts, local businesses, and private donors. To donate, please visit our website at FightSepsis.org.