

State Policy Approaches to Sepsis Prevention and Early Recognition

There are several approaches that state health departments, state hospital associations and other policymakers have taken to improve sepsis prevention and early recognition. Formal evaluation or peer-review of the successes of these policies or initiatives may not be complete at this time. However, the list below is intended to be illustrative of some possible approaches that states may consider. The list is not an exhaustive inventory of all sepsis laws, regulations, or initiatives.

Gabby's Law – Illinois Senate Bill 2403 (SB2403)



Law named in honor of a 5-year-old girl who developed an infection from an undetected tick bite that led to sepsis. This law requires hospitals to:

- Implement an evidence-based process for quickly recognizing and treating adults and children with sepsis.
- Train staff to identify and treat patients with possible sepsis.
- Collect sepsis data to improve the quality of care and provide to the state (e.g. sepsis data to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting program).

Rory's Regulations – NYCRR Title 10 Sections 405.2, 405.4, and 405.7



Law named in honor of a 12-year old boy who died when he developed an infection from a cut after falling in a school gym that led to sepsis. This law requires hospitals to:

- Implement an evidence-based process, which should include suitable training, resources, and equipment for healthcare providers, for quickly recognizing and treating sepsis in adults and children.
- Collect sepsis data to improve the quality of care and provide this data to the state annually.
- Implement [Parents' Bill of Rights](#) to ensure that parents and primary care providers receive vital information about children's care. Some components include:
 - Allowing parents or guardians to stay with pediatric patients at all times.
 - Reviewing medical tests with the patient or the patient's parent or guardian before discharging a child patient.

Reducing Sepsis Mortality in Ohio – Ohio Hospital Association's Sepsis Initiative



A two-year sepsis prevention and early recognition program funded from CMS's Leading Edge Advanced Practice Topics (LEAPT) program that focuses on reducing sepsis mortality in Ohio by 30%. The program encourages hospitals to:

- Conduct a survey to identify gaps in sepsis knowledge and treatment.
- Identify, track, and report sepsis data.
- Provide healthcare provider training for sepsis prevention and early recognition.

"Think Katie First" – Wisconsin Hospital Association's Partners for Patients Initiative



Initiative named in honor of Katie, a 26-year-old healthcare worker who died from sepsis after being hospitalized with flu-like symptoms, that brings Wisconsin hospitals together to:

- Reduce sepsis mortality through early detection and rapid treatment of sepsis.
- Share sepsis prevention and early recognition best practices.

Collaboration efforts have led to a 16% decrease in mortality-associated sepsis since 2013.

References:

- IL • <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2403&GAID=13&GA=99&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=93876&SessionID=88>
- NY • https://www.health.ny.gov/facilities/public_health_and_health_planning_council/meetings/2013-02-07/docs/13-01.pdf
- NY • <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1470.pdf>
- NY • <https://rorystauntonfoundationforsepsis.org/rorys-regulations-full-legal-document/>
- OH • <http://ohiohospitals.org/sepsis>
- WI • <http://www.whaqualitycenter.org/PartnersforPatients/Sepsis.aspx>
- WI • http://www.wha.org/Data/Sites/1/pubarchive/special_reports/2015QualityReport.pdf