

NHSN Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements Line List Guide

Overview

NHSN has created an analysis report for users to track their hospitals current implementation the [Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements](#).

The report is available to facilities that participate in the Patient Safety Component (PSC) and completed the NHSN [PSC Hospital Annual Survey](#). NHSN adapted the core elements from the CDC guidelines to establish questions on the annual survey that maps to 28 domains split among the 7 Core Elements.

Each Core Element has been assigned a point value based on the number of priority examples (or “Domains”) for the element. The facility can receive one point per Domain, based on their responses to the corresponding annual survey question or questions. Some Domains require a “yes” to a single question, while others require selection of a combination of multi-select options to one or more questions. The total score possible is 28 (total number of Domains).

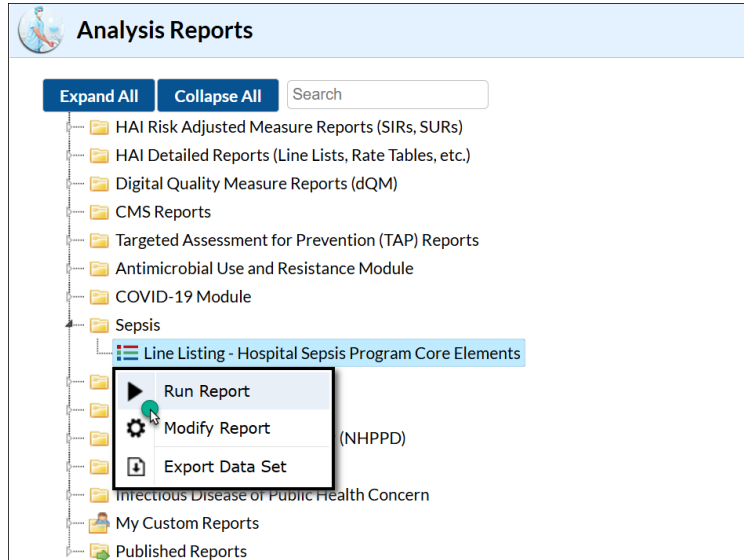
Core Element	Points Possible
Hospital Leadership Commitment	5
Accountability	5
Multi-professional expertise	4
Action	5
Tracking	5
Reporting	1
Education	3
Total	28

Table 1: List of 7 core elements of sepsis programs and their total points each.

The report calculates a score for each of the seven Core Elements and generates a total overall score from their sum (see example below). Eligible facilities are only required to submit the most recent annual survey for this report to be generated. As future annual surveys are released and subsequently submitted by eligible facilities, additional rows for those survey years will be added to the report to track a facility’s progress.

Instructions

Facilities should complete the most recent annual survey before running this report. Once completed, generate new analysis datasets and proceed to the NHSN Analysis Reports page. In the “Sepsis” folder, select “Line Listing-Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements” and then click **Run Report** to generate the line list in a new window.



Interpretation

The generated report will include data from completed surveys from 2024 onward in the “Survey Year” column, followed by the seven Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements. Each of the core element columns contains a numeric value that represents the number of Domains within the core element that the facility has established. Responses from multiple Patient Safety Annual Survey questions are derived to determine the score for each core element; see Mapping section below.

National Healthcare Safety Network									
Line Listing - Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements									
As of: August 19, 2025 at 3:46 PM UTC									
Date Range: All SEPSISCOREELEMENTS									
Facility Org ID=10018									
Facility Org ID	Survey Year	Leadership	Accountability	NHSN Expertise	Action	Tracking	Reporting	Education	Overall CDC Hospital Sepsis Core Elements score
10018	2024	3	4	3	5	4	0	2	21
1. More information about the core elements of the Sepsis program can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/sepsis/Core-Elements-Guidance.pdf 2. A total Sepsis score of 28 can be met by the facility. 3. Responses to the annual hospital survey were used to determine if the hospital meets one or more of the Sepsis Core Elements. 4. Review the NHSN data dictionary for information on variable names. We recommend using variable labels when running this report. 5. Adherence to a Core Element is achieved with a positive ("Y") response to at least one question within that element. Sorted by surveyYear Data contained in this report were last generated on August 13, 2025 at 7:07 PM UTC to include data beginning August 2023 .									

The final column labeled “Overall CDC Hospital Sepsis Core Elements score” is the aggregated score across all elements met for a specific survey year. In the example below, the facility had a total score of 21 (out of 28 possible points) derived from the scores achieved within each element in the survey year 2024.

As additional annual surveys are completed, new rows will be generated on the report to display scores generated from the aligned survey year. If you run this report from a Group in NHSN, all facilities in the Group who have conferred rights to annual survey data will appear on the line list.

The version of the report above displays each column with labels to describe each core element. Users that are interested in viewing this report with variable names listed in the columns will need to modify the report and de-select the box that reads **Show descriptive variable names**.

Modify "Line Listing - Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements"	
<input type="checkbox"/> Show descriptive variable names (Print List)	Analysis Data Set: sepsisCoreElements Type: Line Listing

Mapping and Scoring

The Core Elements are mapped to the NHSN PSC Hospital Annual Survey and outlined in the [Hospital Sepsis Core Elements Structural Measure Scoring](#) crosswalk and rubric.

The scoring rubric and mapping resource provides users with the specific NHSN PSC Hospital Annual Survey questions that align with each core element, the total number of possible points within each element, and an explanation of how to score and calculate a total score for a facilities Hospital Sepsis Program.

Resources

- [CDC's Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements](#)
- [Patient Safety Component Hospital Annual Survey](#)
- [How to run and modify a Line List within NHSN](#)