

GET AHEAD OF SEPSIS

KNOW THE RISKS. SPOT THE SIGNS. ACT FAST.

Get Ahead of Sepsis: Protect your patients

Get Ahead of Sepsis from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages healthcare professionals to:

- Prevent infections.
- Be alert to the signs and symptoms of sepsis.
- Act fast if they suspect sepsis.

Each year, at least 1.7 million adults in America develop sepsis, and nearly 270,000 Americans die as a result. Your fast recognition and treatment can increase your patients' chances of survival. *Get Ahead of Sepsis* provides materials and resources to help healthcare professionals educate patients and their caregivers about preventing infections, recognizing early signs and symptoms of worsening infection and sepsis, and seeking immediate care when needed.

What should healthcare professionals do if they suspect sepsis?

- Know your facility's existing guidance for diagnosing and managing sepsis.
- Immediately alert the clinician in charge if it is not you.
- Start antibiotics as soon as possible in addition to other therapies appropriate for the patient. Once the specific cause of sepsis is known, such as a positive test for COVID-19, therapy can be targeted, and empiric broad-spectrum antibiotics might not be needed.
- Check patient progress frequently. Always remember to prescribe the right antibiotic, at the right dose, for the right duration, and at the right time. Reassess antibiotic therapy to stop or tailor treatment based on the patient's or resident's clinical condition and diagnostic test results as appropriate.

To support patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals, CDC provides [educational information](#), including fact sheets, brochures, infographics, a public service announcement, and a video about "Four Ways to Get Ahead of Sepsis." Visit the [CDC sepsis website](#) for more information.