**National Sepsis Programme**  
An integrated, person-centred approach to quality improvement

**Ms Christina Doyle,**  
Project Manager,  
**Directorate of Clinical Strategy & Programmes, Health Service Executive**

**Dr Vida Hamilton,**  
National Clinical Lead

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### Epidemiology

Sepsis is the common fatal pathway for infection. It is defined as a dysregulated host response to infection.

**Epidemiology:** Sepsis affects approximately 220 per 100,000 of the Irish Population with an average mortality of 20%. (HIPE data, 2015). International studies show that 70-80% of cases originate in the community and are admitted via the Emergency Department. (CDC) Severe sepsis adversely affects Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) in survivors.

![Chart showing mortality rate from 2011 to 2015](chart.png)

**Aim:** To reduce Mortality from sepsis by 20% along with reduced Critical Care admission requirements and Hospital length of stay.

### Methodology

The introduction of an integrated approach to sepsis recognition and management across the healthcare system, addressing the issues which have been identified in the Irish healthcare System as contributing to patient morbidity and mortality.

- Failure to recognize the severity of illness
- Failure to recognize deterioration
- Failure to communicate effectively
- Failure to escalate care

### Change Process

1. **Step 1:** National Clinical Guideline No. 6: Sepsis Management
   - Published November 2014, NICE accredited March 2015. The accompanying implementation programme is aimed at patient detection and diagnosis and an initial treatment bundle that is titrated to individual needs and enables risk stratification and escalation.

2. **Step 2:** Education and Awareness
   - Medical and Nursing schools and Postgraduate bodies were contacted and asked to ensure that curriculae reflect the national guideline. A sepsis module is now included in the National Intern Training Programme and undergraduate nurse training. The mandatory e-learning programme was published on HSE.Land in October 2016.
   - **Three National Sepsis Summits have been hosted to date:**
     - **Hearts and Minds:** aimed at Group and Hospital Leadership; Delegates were made aware of the new sepsis management guideline and asked to set up and support hospital sepsis committees for its implementation.
     - **Start-up:** aimed at Hospital Sepsis Committees with representatives from all acute hospitals present; early adopters discussed their implementation highlighting barriers and enablers.
     - **At the Frontline:** one year on representatives from hospitals around the county present their sepsis implementation work. Awards to Cavan General Hospital for best ED project, Limerick Regional for best oral presentation and Cork University Hospital for best poster.

### Future projects

- to assess the effects of a multi-disciplinary intervention on the HRQoL of survivors of severe sepsis and septic shock so as to close the loop and facilitate the return of patients to their primary care.

### References

1. CDC Vital Signs, 2016
3. Investigation into the safety, quality and standards of services provided by the Health Service Executive to patients, including pregnant women, at risk of clinical deterioration, including those provided in University Hospital Galway, and as reflected in the care and treatment provided to Savita Halappanavar: HRQA, October, 2013