

## Sepsis Doesn't Discriminate

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death. It is difficult to predict, diagnose and treat. Patients who develop sepsis have an increased risk of complications and death and face higher healthcare costs and longer treatment ([www.cdc.gov/sepsis](http://www.cdc.gov/sepsis)).

Sepsis doesn't discriminate. Any type of infection, anywhere in the body, can cause sepsis, including infections of the skin, lungs, urinary tract and abdomen.

Anyone can get sepsis, but the risk is higher in:

- People with weakened immune systems,
- The elderly,
- Babies and young children,
- People with chronic diseases such as diabetes, AIDS, cancer, and kidney or liver disease, and
- People suffering from a severe burn or wound.

One way to prevent sepsis is to quickly recognize and effectively treat infections such as Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI), Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) and Clostridium Difficile Infection (CDI). In order to do this, atom Alliance, the Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for five states, including Kentucky, is working with hospitals to decrease national HAI Standardized Infection Ratios (SIRs) by demonstrating significant, quantitative, measurable reductions in hospital acute care settings for Medicare beneficiaries.

Contracted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), atom Alliance partners with hospitals to prevent the occurrence of HAIs using evidence-based prevention strategies and focuses on antimicrobial stewardship programs, tracking HAIs in multiple settings and vaccination health. Learn more at: <http://atomalliance.org/initiatives/reducing-healthcare-associated-infections/>.

Additional information on sepsis, including links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sepsis site and links to the CMS Educational Series *"The Clinician's Perspective on Sepsis Care: The Early Management Bundle for Severe Sepsis/Septic Shock"* can be found here: <http://atomalliance.org/events/sepsis-awareness-month/>

Advancing Excellence will be providing a workshop on disrupting infections Thursday, October 8, 2015. Ge details here: [http://atomalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Oct8\\_Louisville\\_CTS\\_081515.pdf](http://atomalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Oct8_Louisville_CTS_081515.pdf)

**If you are not yet participating with atom Alliance to reduce HAIs and would like additional information,** contact Mary Bardin for more information at **270-605-4022** or [mary.bardin@area-G.hcqis.org](mailto:mary.bardin@area-G.hcqis.org).

Formed as a partnership between three leading healthcare consultancies, atom Alliance is working under contract to CMS throughout Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee to improve quality and achieve better outcomes in health and healthcare and at lower costs for the patients and communities we serve. Visit the website to learn more at [www.atomAlliance.org](http://www.atomAlliance.org).