



## **Surviving Sepsis Campaign Declaration of 2013**

As the Surviving Sepsis Campaign marks 10 years of progress with the publication of the third edition of its “International Guidelines for Management of Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock,” we are gratified to reflect on what has been achieved through committed participation in the Campaign by clinicians worldwide. Nevertheless, sepsis remains a disorder of epidemic incidence and severe consequences with an unacceptably high death rate and devastating long-term effects (1, 2). Application of sepsis care bundles has reduced mortality in hospitals that joined the Surviving Sepsis Campaign, but the number of hospitals involved and the compliance in those hospitals remains low. We are, therefore, compelled to delineate new steps that will save many more lives.

### **The Campaign’s History: Accomplishments to Date**

The original goal of the Campaign was to reduce mortality from severe sepsis and septic shock by 25%. Activities toward this goal included:

- Developing evidence-based guidelines for appropriate care
- Improving diagnosis
- Educating healthcare professionals
- Increasing the use of appropriate treatment
- Building awareness of sepsis

The Campaign proceeded in three phases:

**Phase I: Introduction of the Campaign--**Following the announcement of the target in 2002, awareness of the incidence and prevalence of the condition became heightened. Although clinicians were more attuned to the signs of sepsis, a need to enhance the recognition among patients and their families was identified (3).

**Phase II: Publication of the Guidelines--**In June 2003, representatives from 11 international societies convened to develop an evidence-based set of guidelines for the management of severe sepsis and septic shock. Immediately following publication in 2004 (4), the Campaign initiated an educational effort to

disseminate the knowledge and recommendations widely. An updated set of guidelines, published in 2008, was sponsored by 26 professional societies (5). The current, third edition, which reflects the latest evidence related to sepsis treatment and involves 30 organizations, appears in the February 2013 issues of *Critical Care Medicine* and *Intensive Care Medicine* (6). The Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines have become the gold standard for sepsis care as they are incorporated into hospital protocols and regulatory mandates internationally.

**Phase III: Guideline Implementation, Data Collection, and Behavior Change--** Drawing on the expertise in quality improvement gained through partnering with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, we constructed the Surviving Sepsis Campaign Care Bundles from key guideline recommendations. Subsequent development and distribution of a data collection tool along with a website, online discussion forum, implementation manual, newsletter, and a series of educational meetings enabled local and regional networks of hospitals worldwide to document and improve performance.

### **The Campaign Today: Significant Results**

A recent analysis of more than 25,000 patient charts from 186 hospitals over a 5-year period confirms that ongoing hospital participation in the Campaign is associated with continuous quality improvement and a sustained, linear decrease in mortality (7); however, despite the evidence demonstrating the value of using performance metrics for maintaining standards of care for the management of sepsis, marked differences remain between hospitals in the delivery of care for septic patients (8). Published data clearly show that delays in the recognition and treatment of sepsis are associated with worse outcomes while early treatment improves survival (9). Reviewing the inconsistent application of measures identifies an important opportunity to reduce sepsis-induced mortality further. In particular, earlier identification of patients who develop sepsis on the wards and improvements in the timely application of evidence-based, validated therapies represents a unique opportunity to save additional lives.

### **The Campaign's Future: An Invitation to Recommit**

As the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine and the Society of Critical Care Medicine jointly publish the third edition of the Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines, we invite clinicians around the world to join us in renewing our commitment to the goals set in 2002: to further reduce mortality from sepsis worldwide and to provide the imperative for healthcare providers to improve the care and outcomes of septic patients.

Specifically, in this next phase of the Campaign we challenge our colleagues as well as ourselves to:

- Increase the number of hospitals contributing data to the Surviving Sepsis Campaign to 10,000 worldwide
- Apply the guidelines to 100% of patients in whom the diagnosis is suspected
- Develop a strategy to improve the care of septic patients where healthcare resources are limited

The potential to save lives is enormous. Assuming that the reduction in mortality seen to date can be sustained and 10,000 hospitals comply with the Campaign recommendations, we could save 400,000 lives *if we treat only half* of the eligible patients with the Surviving Sepsis Campaign Bundles. Extension of the Surviving Sepsis Campaign to under-resourced populations may have an even greater impact.

With the introduction of new guidelines, revised bundles, and enhanced resources that include a new database and a new website, the Campaign invites each of you to make a personal commitment to join us in providing the care our patients around the world deserve. Log on to [www.survivingsepsis.org](http://www.survivingsepsis.org) to show your commitment.

#### References

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