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Enhancing Early Sepsis Recognition & Response

Sepsis Timeline

Infection (Fever, Chills)

Time = Tissue

Confusion/Oliguria

Organ Dysfunction

- Sepsis is a life-threatening emergency caused by a body's response to infection.
- Early recognition and treatment are critical to reducing mortality and long-term complications.
- Nurses play a vital role in identifying at-risk patients and initiating timely interventions.
- Each hour of delay in antibiotics increases mortality risk.

Every Hour Counts: Time to Antibiotics vs. Survival

Hours	Survival (%)
0	100
1	95
2	90
3	85
4	80
5	75
6	70
7	65
8	60
9	55

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Purpose of the Initiative

- Enhance Clinical Outcomes**
 - Improve outcomes for patients at risk of sepsis through timely identification and intervention.
- Strengthen Staff Education**
 - Provide targeted education to clinical staff on the critical importance of early sepsis recognition and rapid response.
- Promote Engagement and Compliance**
 - Foster staff engagement and increase adherence to standardize sepsis protocols.
- Achieve Timely Antibiotic Administration**
 - Meet the benchmark of initiating appropriate antibiotic therapy within 60 min of sepsis identification.

60 min

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Tasks to improve sepsis care:

- Accurately identify patients at risk for sepsis, early on.
- Promptly initiate interventions following the organization's sepsis protocols.
- Consistently utilize the Sepsis Response Team (SRT).
- Enhance collaboration within the multidisciplinary team to achieve administering antibiotics within 60 mins.
- Identify knowledge gaps and deficiency trends.
- Provide education to staff, utilizing engaging activities, to improve patient care and outcomes.

SEPSIS CARE

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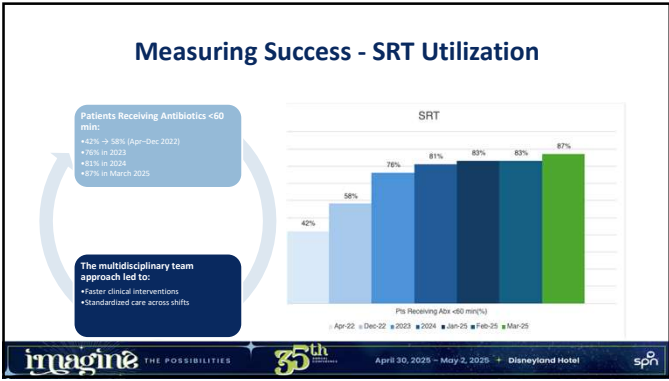
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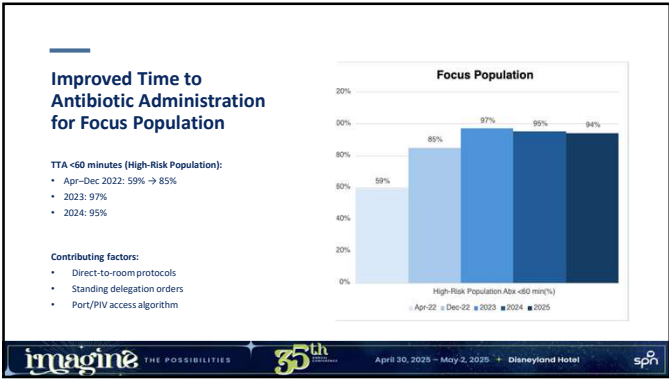
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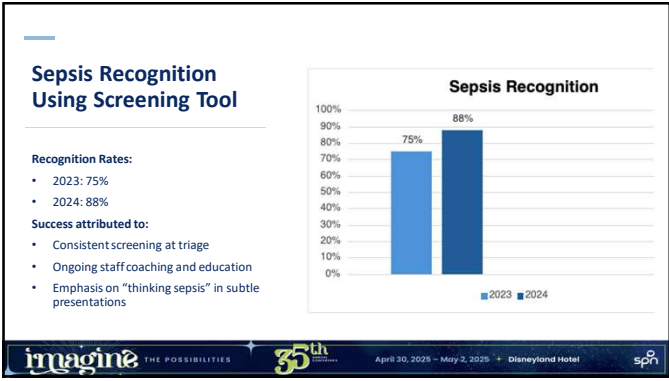
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Results and Data Analysis: Desired Outcomes

Timely and Consistent Care:
Sepsis care in the emergency department is timely, consistent, and efficient — emphasizing early recognition, rapid response, and evidence-based treatment.

Prompt SRT Activation & Improved Workflow:
The sepsis Response Team is activated immediately for all patients screening positive for sepsis risk. Antibiotics are administered promptly, consistently within the recommended <60-minute window.

Enhanced Sepsis Recognition:
Utilization of the sepsis screening tool improves significantly, supporting earlier and more accurate identification of at-risk patients.

Engaged and Educated Staff:
Staff are actively engaged through ongoing education, skills training, and innovative methods such as the Escape Room simulation, which reinforces adherence to sepsis protocols and fosters a culture of accountability.

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Empowering Staff: Sustaining Sepsis Engagement Through Innovation and Collaboration

Strategies that Build Lasting Impact

- Interactive Education Initiatives**
Hands-on learning: Sepsis Escape Room, Hot Potato, Sepsis Jeopardy
- Staff Recognition & Motivation**
Sepsis Heroes Board and peer-nominated awards
- Child Life Integration**
Enhancing patient experience and reducing procedural stress
- Coaching & Accountability**
Monthly performance audits with real-time feedback and support
- Collaborative Practice Refinement**
Embedding sepsis strategies into unit-based QI cycles

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Sepsis Escape Room: Educate, Engage, Escape!

Hands-on simulation to reinforce rapid sepsis response

Key Outcomes:

- 100% of teams escaped within 12–14 minutes
- Boosted staff confidence in protocol application
- Strengthened team communication & decision-making

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Sepsis Escape Room: Building Engagement, One Team at a Time

Celebrating participation, teamwork, and improvement across cohorts



Team Highlights:

- 🏆 "Best teamwork of the day!"
- 💡 "We remembered our protocol steps!"
- 🏃 "Everyone escaped in under 15 minutes"

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Sepsis Escape Room Results

Hands-on learning that delivers measurable impact

Quantitative Outcomes (n = 44):

- Early signs recognition: 90% → 98%
- Confidence in documentation: 77% → 98%
- Comfort using new sepsis tool: 75% → 98%
- Understanding of sepsis order set: 83% → 96%

Participant Comments:

- "That was a lot of fun!"
- "Practice makes perfect."
- "Great escape room layout."
- "So fun!"
- "Great experience!"
- "Enjoyed the experience."

Why This Matters:

- ✓ Increased staff confidence
- ✓ Improved sepsis recognition
- ✓ Reinforced documentation accuracy
- ✓ Boosted engagement with protocol training

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What Participants Are Saying

Real insights from the Sepsis Escape Room

"Working as a team was better than alone!"

"Fun and informative!"

"Each time is different — great experience!"

"I loved the pictures/puzzle aspect of the game."

"The experience was a fun way to apply sepsis guidelines to real life."


"Take it seriously! It's a great way to apply what you learn in lectures."

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Conclusion

- Through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, our ED significantly improved sepsis care delivery by prioritizing early recognition, timely intervention, and sustained staff engagement.
- The activation of a Sepsis Response Team (SRT), streamlined workflows, and targeted education initiatives—including the Sepsis Escape Room—enhanced adherence to protocols and empowered staff to act confidently and collaboratively.
- Over time, these efforts led to improved patient outcomes, with a notable rise in timely antibiotic administration, increased utilization of the SRT, and enhanced sepsis recognition rates.
- Most importantly, this initiative cultivated a culture of accountability, innovation, and shared responsibility, reinforcing that when frontline staff are equipped, engaged, and supported, sustainable improvements in sepsis care are not only possible—they are inevitable.




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Questions?





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