

# Issue Brief

## Sepsis Protocol



### What's the issue

- Sepsis occurs when the body's response to infection is so overwhelming that it causes widespread inflammation, damaging its own tissue and organs. As the condition progresses from sepsis to severe sepsis to septic shock, it can lead to organ failure, tissue damage, and death.
- According to the National Institutes of Health, anyone can get sepsis, but infants, children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems and certain chronic diseases are most vulnerable.

### Why does it matter?

- According to the Sepsis Alliance, this condition kills 258,000 Americans each year- which would put it just behind heart disease and cancer as the third leading cause of death in the United States.
- Sepsis leads to long-term problems for many survivors, with impacts ranging from amputation and organ dysfunction to depression and cognitive impairment.
- In 2016 – due in large part to the efforts of Liz and Tony Galbo who lost their five-year-old daughter Gabby to untreated sepsis in 2012 – Gabby's Law was passed.
- Gabby's Law amends the Hospital Licensing Act (210 ILCS 85), to ensure that Illinois hospitals are prepared to diagnose and treat sepsis in both children and adults.
- The new law requires hospitals to adopt evidence-based protocols for early recognition and treatment, clearly identifying where care differs for children. Additionally, staff must be trained on these protocols, which are to be made available to the Illinois Department of Public Health upon request.
- The law also requires hospitals to collect quality measures for their internal Quality Improvement programs. And, pending available funds, the law would empower the Illinois Department of Public Health to institute a sepsis surveillance and reporting program.

### What is the Presence Health perspective?

- **Sepsis protocols save lives.** Sepsis protocols save lives- according to NIH, as many as 80 percent of sepsis deaths could be prevented with early diagnosis and treatment. Despite this fact, many hospitals did not have protocols in place.
- **Presence Health is a leader in the fight against sepsis with sepsis protocols voluntarily in place since 2007.** Using telehealth technology, Presence Health has reduced its ICU septic shock mortality rate from 50 percent in 2005 to 17.4 percent in 2016. Presence Health pioneered sepsis protocols in Illinois and has been using them voluntarily since 2007.
- **Presence Health champions sepsis education.** Presence Health has been a primary sponsor of the Illinois Sepsis Challenge 5K since its inception in 2012. In 2016, Presence Health was honored to host the Galbo's and other advocates who worked diligently to pass Gabby's Law as Governor Bruce Rauner signed SB 2403 into law.