



Leadership | Strategy | Innovation

## > PROJECT PROFILE

The HCA Physician Leadership Academy: **Improve Bundle Compliance and Mortality in Patients with Sepsis**



### > CHALLENGE

- In early 2014, Swedish Medical Center was underperforming in the care of sepsis patients.
- In second quarter of 2014 Swedish reported 44 percent 6-hour bundle compliance and 19 percent mortality in severe sepsis and 54 percent bundle compliance and 45 percent mortality in septic shock.

### > ABOUT HCA

HCA stands for the best practices of medicine, using reach, scale and stability to transform healthcare and help communities thrive.

One of the nation's leading providers of healthcare services, HCA is made up of locally managed facilities that include 177 hospitals and 119 freestanding surgery centers located in 20 U.S. states and in the United Kingdom.

The goal of the PLA HCA is to produce the next generation of transformational leaders, and to provide the leaders with the skills necessary to make a lasting impact on the organization and the community.

### > APPROACH

- Analyzed sepsis cases
- Identified knowledge deficits among both physicians and nurses and several clinical processes
- Educational efforts included grand rounds, house-wide promotion of the "Rule of 2s" through posters and badge backers, education in unit huddles and individual conversations
- Designed and implemented new processes including analysis of SIRS criteria in the initial nursing assessment of all ED patients, an ED sepsis huddle for patients who screened positive, the creation of an ED sepsis kit to assure that appropriate supplies were available in each patient room, and a new bar code to capture documentation of EMS-administered IV fluids
- Encouraged ED physicians to use the ED EMR sepsis order set.
- Inpatient Sepsis Alerts were implemented with CCU nurses responding with a point-of-care device for assessment of lactate.
- A full-time dedicated Sepsis Coordinator position was developed to provide further analysis of response and in sepsis patients and continued education through many avenues such as teaching at nursing unit huddles
- A division-wide sepsis champions program was developed to educate nurses to provide additional expertise and support of the Sepsis Coordinator



# 11%

11 percent decrease in mortality from severe sepsis, from 19 percent to eight percent.

**DEVELOPED A  
DEIVISION-WIDE  
SEPSIS CHAMPIONS  
PROGRAM**



## > OUTCOMES

- Bundle compliance saw an increase while mortality saw a decrease.
  - Three-hour bundle compliance was 67 percent and mortality was eight percent for severe sepsis.
  - Three-hour bundle compliance was 58 percent and mortality was 29 percent for septic shock.
- Variable cost declined \$4,405 per case from 2014 to 2015. With a mean of 43 cases monthly, this contributed an average savings of \$189,000 per month.

**28%**

These efforts have saved lives and led to a 28 percent improvement in variable costs per sepsis case.

## > ABOUT CTI

CTI specializes in healthcare transformation and clinical optimization. We work with our clients to improve the quality of care and patient experience, realize operational efficiencies, and manage costs through process improvements and performance excellence. CTI has assisted health systems, hospitals, and medical group practices throughout the U.S. and abroad to optimize their clinical practices in areas such as hospital medicine, oncology, and pediatrics.

We help healthcare providers to:

- set organizational priorities
- manage the cost of care
- formulate growth strategies
- adapt to changing regulatory mandates
- minimize patient length of stay
- reduce readmissions
- compensate for reductions in Medicaid and Medicare
- move to a value-based care model
- facilitate interoperability with network providers
- mitigate staffing shortages
- engage key clinical staff
- improve quality of care
- increase patient satisfaction
- manage talent
- plan for smooth and effective successions
- develop clinical and administrative leaders

To learn more, please go to [ctileadership.com](http://ctileadership.com).

We believe you can achieve transformational success by applying leadership skills to your strong base of clinical skills. CTI fosters a culture of goal setting, collaboration, teamwork, and accountability that are essential to achieve long-term objectives for our client-partners. CTI is 100 percent focused on developing healthcare leaders. Our customized programs result in skill growth, improved performance, and long-term succession planning. CTI fosters a culture of goal setting, collaboration, teamwork, and accountability that are essential to achieve long-term objectives for our client-partners. We live leadership!

## > CONCLUSIONS

- An engaged multidisciplinary team can effectively drive change in challenging clinical problems within a complex acute-care hospital.
- Analysis of patient records for problems and trends is useful to identify opportunities for intervention.
- A dedicated Sepsis Coordinator drives education, analyzes trends, and supports clinicians.
- These efforts have saved lives and led to a 28 percent improvement in variable costs per sepsis case.

**IMPROVED TEAM  
ENGAGEMENT  
WITHIN A COMPLEX  
HOSPITAL**

**FULL-TIME SEPSIS  
COORDINATOR  
SUPPORTS  
IMPROVEMNT**