



Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program

Support Contractor

SSM Health's Sepsis Core Measure Journey

Question and Answer Summary Document

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Webinar attendees submitted the following questions and subject-matter experts provided the responses. The questions and answers have been edited for grammar. Responses to the questions posed during the October webinar, SSM Health's Sepsis Core Measure Journey, only reflect CMS guidance on implementing the Sepsis (SEP)-1 measure in the Hospital IQR Program. For questions concerning SEP-1 implementation at SSM Health, please contact the SSM Health sepsis team.

Question 1: Is CMS moving toward a mortality-based sepsis measure?

CMS' support contractor has a call for Technical Expert Panel (TEP) members for the development of a future sepsis outcome measure. Neither the measure's focus nor specifications have been finalized at this time. Individuals interested in participation on this TEP should consider nominating themselves or others; details are available here: [Patient Safety Measure Development and Maintenance: Sepsis Outcome Measure](#).

Question 2: Is there any consideration being given to making SEP-1 into a measure with multiple sub items (initial lactate, repeat lactate, antibiotic, blood culture, crystalloid fluids, etc.) and an Appropriate Core Score for total performance on the measure? This would allow collection of data on all parts of the measure for each sepsis patient and help allow a clearer picture of where improvements are needed. Currently, data collection stops when the patient misses one part of the measure and we don't know if they received the care for the following portions of the measure.

As the CMS support contractor, we are not aware of any changes currently under consideration for the SEP-1 measure. We will pass your question and comments to the SEP-1 measure stewards and CMS.