

# **Sepsis In the Community**

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# A Father's Story



**Brent Teichman**  
1990-2019

# Brent's Story

- Brent was a healthy 29 years old
- He had been sick for 5 days before notifying family, too late to start antivirals
- He was referred to urgent care on day 7 for difficulty breathing
- He died in his sleep 4 hours after returning from urgent care



# Influenza Doesn't Discriminate

- Brent was not vaccinated
- Getting vaccinated had been on Brent's to-do list, but life got busy



# Brent's Vital Signs

Temp: 37.9

Pulse: 157

Resp: 28

Sat: 85%

Labs:

WBC 14,000 Gran 87%



# SYSTEMIC INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE SYNDROME (SIRS)

- Body temperature over 38 or under 36 degrees Celsius
- Heart Rate greater than 90 beats per minute
- Respiratory rate greater than 20 breaths per minute or partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> less than 32 mmHG
- White blood cell count of >12,000 or <4000/mm<sup>3</sup>



# WHAT IS SEPSIS

- Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection which can lead to tissue damage, amputations, organ failure and death
- It can impact people of all ages including very young children, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems
- It knows no racial or socio-economic barriers
- The risk of sepsis can be greatly decreased by vaccination



# CRITICAL FACTS

- Sepsis affects 49 million people worldwide each year, including 20 million children under the age of 5 years.
- Sepsis takes the life of 11 million people worldwide each year.
- More than 1.7 million people in the U.S. are diagnosed with sepsis each year – one every 20 seconds and it is on the rise.
- Every 2 minutes, 1 person in the U.S. dies of sepsis
- An estimated 350,000 adults in the U.S. die from sepsis each year. More than those who die from stroke, prostate cancer, breast cancer and opioid overdose combined.





# CRITICAL FACTS

- Each year more than 75,000 children develop severe sepsis and 6,800 of them die, more than succumb to pediatric cancer .
- Sepsis causes at least 261,000 maternal deaths every year worldwide.
- Sepsis in the U.S. disproportionately affects the black community; blacks bear twice the burden of sepsis deaths vs whites.
- Survivors have a shortened life span and 1% undergo amputations
- Missed infections are the third most common cause of diagnostic errors in malpractice cases.



# CRITICAL FACTS

- Viral sepsis is the most common complication in severe COVID-19, 78% of COVID -19 hospitalized in the ICU have sepsis.



# ECONOMIC COST

- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalizations in the U.S. Costing an estimated \$62 billion annually.
- Sepsis is the #1 cause of hospital readmission costing more than \$3.5 billion each year.



# WHAT DO HOSPITALS DO?

- According to the 2023 NHSN Annual survey 78% of the 5,254 hospitals participating have sepsis committees 59% dedicated time for sepsis leadership, 66% are reporting progress towards achieving goals.
- In February of 2016 JAMA published The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3), used by hospitals to recognize patients with sepsis.



# BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OUTPATIENT SETTING?

- The International Sepsis Forum held a meeting in April 2024 on Sepsis in the Community the emphasis of the conference was the detection of sepsis outside of the hospital.
- Early detection of sepsis is key to improving outcomes.
- Urgent Care facilities do not do what hospitals are required to do to screen for sepsis.



# Lochlin's Law

- Lochlin DeSantis was a 5-year-old boy who died in 2020 from sepsis precipitated by influenza. His parents lobbied the Maryland legislature to write a law to require hospitals and urgent care centers to have sepsis training and protocols in place to recognize and treat patients with sepsis.
- The governor of Maryland signed Lochlin's Law in April 2024



# Contact Us

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Thanks to the Sepsis Alliance and Love for Lochlin for their help with this presentation. For more information, please use the links below.

<https://www.sepsis.org/>

<https://www.loveforlochlin.com/>

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