

# Freestone Medical Center: Improve Compliance with Sepsis Bundle in a Rural Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS)

TMF Health Quality Institute

## Problem

- Freestone had not been compliant using the Sepsis Core Measure Bundle for the two years prior to August 2021.
- Bundle compliance was problematic when patients transitioned from the emergency department (ED) to inpatient status. Reasons included second lactate not ordered, ordered beyond the appropriate period, lack of sepsis workflow.
- Predictive data from *Unite Us* of the population served by the hospital indicated that its patients had a higher likelihood for sepsis diagnosis than the state of Texas as a whole.

## Goal

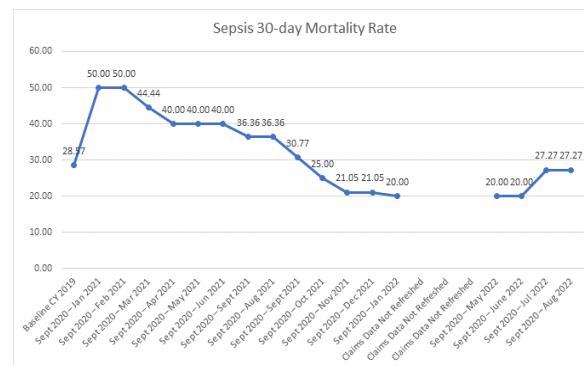
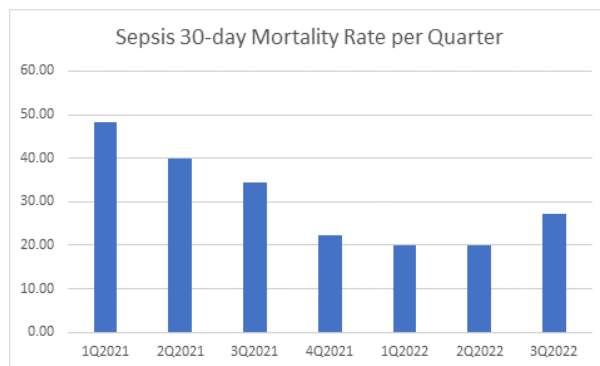
Increase compliance with sepsis bundle to 80% by end of 2022.

## Interventions

- The facility provided sepsis education to all frontline staff during an annual skills fair.
- The facility added a new sepsis screening tool to the EHR in the ED.
- The facility updated sepsis order sets in the ED and inpatient unit with appropriate orders (e.g., automatic second lactate ordered) for a simplified workflow.

## Results

- Sepsis volumes were low (two or three patients a quarter).
- The MEDIAN score for meeting the sepsis bundle objectives is 50%.
- Goal of meeting sepsis bundle objectives 80% of the time was only achieved in 2Q 2021.
- Sepsis 30-day mortality rate has decreased every quarter in 2021.



## Conclusions

- Providers were not using order sets consistently.
- Charting was not consistent due to increased use of agency and contract staff.
- Providers at the facility needed additional training on the sepsis screen tool due to staff turnover and the use of agency nurses.

## Next Steps

- Distribute monthly “DID YOU KNOW?” education to facility nurses and staff regarding the hospital’s sepsis management processes.
- Provide sepsis education to agency staff.
- Have lab automatically draw a second lactate level.
- Scan for lab collections in all areas of the facility.
- Add medication scanning in the ED.