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E-QUAL Network Learning Collaboratives

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Questions?

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Dr. David Gieski from the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital led the implementation of a successful sepsis QI initiative at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania which focused on sepsis quality improvement and early identification and treatment of patients with sepsis and septic shock.

What was the challenge?

While the sickest sepsis patients are immediately moved to a room for care to begin (the hypotensive or hypoxic patient, or those with changes in mental status) less obviously sick patients often wait in the waiting room, a hallway or even in a treatment space for extended periods without care being initiated.

What were the goals?

The goal was to use the vital signs recorded in the EMR along with chief complaints captured at triage and consistent with infection to identify at risk patients.

What was achieved?

We were able to generate the necessary programming changes in the EHR to order the lactate test reliably. The generation of the lactate order also identified patients as needing a bed more urgently, and nurses moved these patients to treatment spaces sooner. With further training and education, we were able to speed up the time to lactate draw and reach our goal of lactate draw in < 10 minutes from order.

What was learned?

We demonstrated that 94% of ESI 2 and 3 patients with a lactate value > 3mmol/L were admitted to the hospital and 43% of them to ICU, thus demonstrating that a cohort of patients initially assigned to wait in the waiting room could be identified as having a very high likelihood of admission and a significant risk for admission to the ICU based on addition of a serum lactate draw at ED triage.

If you were going to do this project over again what would you do differently?

We intend to modify the above process by using qSOFA along with SIRS, a modification of the chief complaints, and then utilizing fingerstick lactates drawn into a pediatric capillary tube, sent to the lab, and analyzed with a turn-around-time of < 15 minutes. We expect that obtaining the lactate sample through a fingerstick approach will improve compliance with lactate draw and speed up time to starting care.

[Webinar recording](#)



Improve Outcomes for patients with sepsis

The ACEP E-QUAL Network successfully hosted the fourth [Sepsis Initiative webinar](#) on June 22nd featuring Drs. Alan Jones and Scott Weingart. Topics of discussion included *Harnessing the EHR in Sepsis Identification* and *Human Elements in Screening and Initiation of Sepsis Treatment*. [Listen to our webinar](#) to learn more about sepsis screening and identification!

July Sepsis Webinar: Managing Tough Patients

Save your spot today! Join us on Wednesday, July 20th for our next Sepsis Initiative webinar with Drs. Nathan Shapiro and Laurence Dubensky. Topics of discussion will include *Effective Sepsis Resuscitation in Medically Complex Patients* and *Evidence-based Approaches to Resuscitation (fluids, blood, etc.)*.

July Sepsis Webinar
Wednesday, July 20
12:00pm-1:00pm EST
[Register](#)

Sepsis Initiative Webinar Series

All webinars take place from 12:00pm-1:00pm EST

Date	Topic
Wednesday, August 17 Register Today!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Work with the ICU to Improve Sepsis Care Transitions • How to Improve Inter-Hospital Transfers for Patients with Sepsis
Wednesday, September 21 Register Today!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antibiotics and Source Control Essentials in Sepsis • Common Sepsis Pitfalls and Barriers to Quality Improvement



Reduce Avoidable Testing for low risk patients through implementation of Choosing Wisely Recommendations

The E-QUAL Network launched the [Avoidable Imaging Initiative](#) on **Thursday, June 23rd** with a free webinar, featuring guest speaker Dr. Gregg Miller. Dr Miller presented on a quality improvement project that dropped CT utilization by over 10% in in three separate hospital system emergency departments.

[Listen to the webinar today!](#)

Avoidable Imaging Initiative Webinar Series

All webinars take place from 1:00pm-2:00pm EST

Date	Topic
Thursday July 21 Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Back Pain
Thursday August 18 Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Trauma
Thursday September 22 Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Radiology
Thursday October 27 Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers of over ordering
Thursday November 17 Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success Stories & Office Hours
Thursday December 15 Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAMA and the future of imaging decisions support and quality measurement

[Join Today!](#)

Join the E-QUAL Network by filling out an [online interest survey](#) to receive the latest news, updates and project details!

Become part of this national quality movement to redefine and rebrand emergency care!