

# LIFE AFTER SEPSIS

---

Christa A. Schorr DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FCCM

Associate Professor of Medicine

Nurse Scientist, Cooper Research Institute-  
Critical Care

# Outline



Characterize  
Sepsis Survivors



Describe short and  
long term recovery



Identify Resources



# CHARACTERIZE SEPSIS SURVIVORS

---

*The* NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

REVIEW ARTICLE

CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

ICU-Acquired Weakness and Recovery  
from Critical Illness

John P. Kress, M.D., and Jesse B. Hall, M.D.

N Engl J Med 2014;370:1626-35.

# Electrophysiological Features of ICU-Acquired Weakness

## Critical illness polyneuropathy

Normal to minimally reduced nerve conduction velocity

Reduced CMAP amplitude

Reduced compound SNAP amplitude

## Critical illness myopathy

Normal to minimally reduced nerve conduction velocity

Reduced CMAP amplitude

Reduced muscle excitability on direct stimulation

Increased CMAP duration

Normal SNAP

\* CMAP denotes compound muscle action potential, and SNAP sensory-nerve action potential.

# Neuromuscular weakness is common

- 25% of patients receiving prolonged mechanical ventilation develop ICU-acquired weakness (ICU-AW)
- Duration of mechanical ventilation is associated with increased mortality.
- Functional impairments can persist for years after discharge.



# Impact of Vasoactive Medications on ICU-Acquired Weakness in Mechanically Ventilated Patients



*Krysta S. Wolfe, MD; Bhakti K. Patel, MD; Erica L. MacKenzie, MD; Shewit P. Giovanni, MD; Anne S. Pohlman, MSN; Matthew M. Churpek, MD, MPH, PhD; Jesse B. Hall, MD; and John P. Kress, MD*

- Secondary analysis of 172 mechanically ventilated patients enrolled in a RCT of early occupational and physical therapy vs conventional therapy, which evaluated the end point of ICU-acquired weakness on hospital discharge.
- Patients underwent bedside muscle strength testing by a therapist blinded to study allocation to evaluate for ICU-acquired weakness.

# Univariable Analysis of Baseline & Outcome Characteristics

Variable	ICU-AW (N = 80)	No ICU-AW (N = 92)	P Value
<b>Baseline characteristics</b>			
Age, y	61 (49-72)	50 (31-64)	.0002
Female, No. (%)	41 (51.3%)	45 (48.9%)	.76
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	28.1 (23.7-34.4)	27.5 (24.4-33.5)	.96
APACHE II	24 (20-30)	17 (13-22)	< .0001
Sepsis	66 (82.5%)	60 (65.2%)	.01
Diabetes	24 (30%)	26 (28.3%)	.8
<b>Outcome characteristics</b>			
Early mobility	33 (41.3%)	50 (54.4%)	.09
Ventilator use, d	5 (2.8-8.3)	2.9 (1.7-4.6)	< .0001
Hospital length of stay, d	17.1 (9-27.9)	10.6 (6.7-15.9)	.0001
ΔSOFA (0-48 h)	0 (-2 to 2)	0 (-2 to 1)	.24
MRC score on hospital discharge	34.5 (0-43.5)	56 (51-59)	< .0001
Mean arterial pressure <sup>a</sup>	79 (73-87)	86 (79-93)	.0008
Median glucose <sup>b</sup>	135 (116-152)	125 (113-142)	.11
<b>Medications received</b>			
No. (%) receiving corticosteroids in ICU	55 (68.8%)	62 (67.4%)	.85
No. (%) receiving neuromuscular blocker	5 (6.25%)	3 (3.3%)	.35
No. (%) receiving vasopressors	59 (73.8%)	31 (33.7%)	< .0001
No. (%) receiving multiple vasopressors	45 (56.3%)	17 (18.5%)	< .0001



# Multivariable Analysis of ICU-Acquired Weakness

**TABLE 2 ]** Multivariable Analysis of ICU-Acquired Weakness

Variable	OR	95% CI	<i>P</i> Value
Vasoactive medication	3.2	1.29-7.95	.01
APACHE II	1.08	1.01-1.15	.02
Sepsis	0.91	0.32-2.62	.85
Hospital length of stay, d	1.05	1.01-1.08	.009
Age, y	1.03	1.0-1.05	.03
Ventilator use, d	1.07	0.98-1.16	.15
Early mobilization	0.38	0.17-0.85	.02
Mean arterial pressure <sup>a</sup>	0.97	0.92-1.02	.21
Study group	0.34	0.14-0.8	.01



For every day that a patient  
received a vasoactive  
medication the odds of  
developing ICU-AW

**increased 35%.**

## AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY DOCUMENTS



### **An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: The Diagnosis of Intensive Care Unit–acquired Weakness in Adults**

Eddy Fan, Fern Cheek, Linda Chlan, Rik Gosselink, Nicholas Hart, Margaret S. Herridge, Ramona O. Hopkins, Catherine L. Hough, John P. Kress, Nicola Latronico, Marc Moss, Dale M. Needham, Mark M. Rich, Robert D. Stevens, Kevin C. Wilson, Chris Winkelman, Doug W. Zochodne, and Naeem A. Ali; on behalf of the ATS Committee on ICU-acquired Weakness in Adults

THIS OFFICIAL CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE OF THE AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY (ATS) WAS APPROVED BY THE ATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AUGUST 2014

Pooled analysis from 7 studies recruiting patients with severe sepsis found the incidence of significant weakness was significantly higher than observed in studies of other patient groups.

In 4 prospective studies the prevalence of sepsis at any time during their presentation was no different whether they developed weakness or not.

**Table 1.** Recommendation to Aid in Decisions Regarding Diagnostic Testing for Intensive Care Unit–acquired Weakness

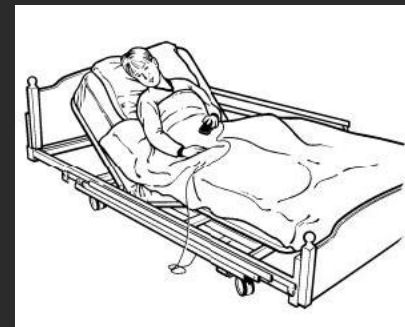
Recommendation	Remarks	Values and Preferences
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. We recommend well-designed, adequately powered and executed randomized controlled trials comparing physical rehabilitation or other alternative treatments with usual care in patients with ICUAW that measure and report patient-important outcomes. (strong recommendation, very low-quality evidence)</li><li>2. We recommend clinical research to determine the role of prior patient disability in the development of and recovery from ICUAW. (strong recommendation, very low-quality evidence)</li><li>3. We recommend clinical research that determines whether or not patients would want to know if they have ICUAW even though no specific therapy currently exists and how patient preferences influence medical decision making or the perception of prognosis. (strong recommendation, very low-quality evidence)</li></ol>	<p>The recommendations are strong because the guideline development committee is certain that additional research is necessary to prove whether physical rehabilitation or other interventions improve outcomes in patients with ICUAW, and such evidence is necessary before deciding whether or not routine diagnostic testing for ICUAW is indicated.</p>	<p>These recommendations place a higher value on avoiding potentially burdensome diagnostic testing if it will not lead to improved outcomes and a lower value on an uncertain improvement in the rate of discharges home rather than to a rehabilitative facility.</p>

**Additional well-designed research is needed**

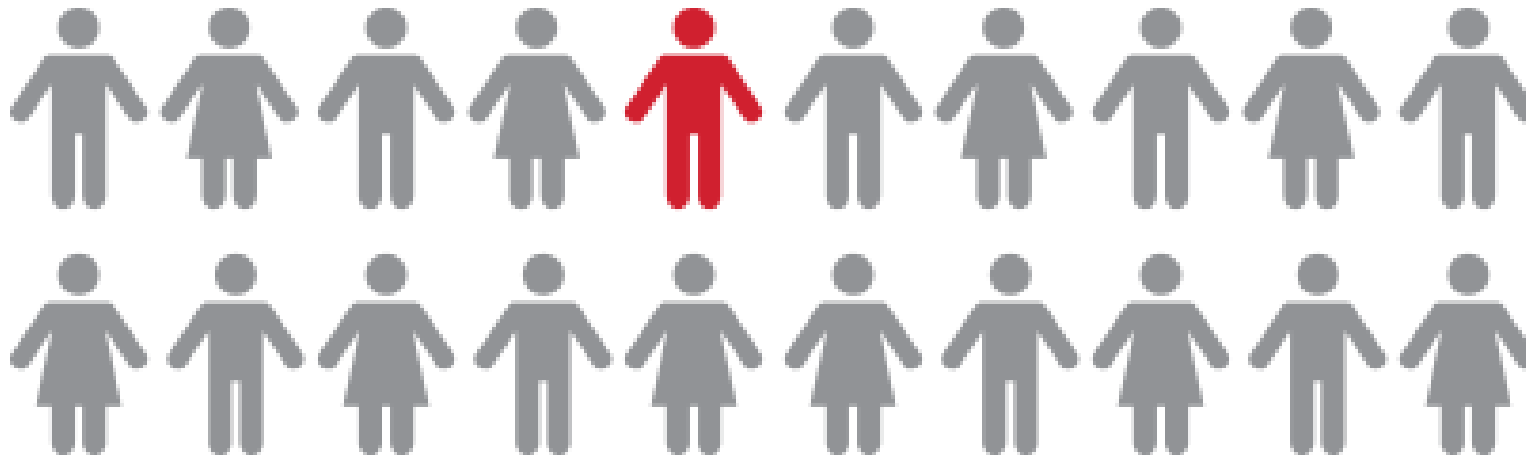
*Definition of abbreviation:* ICUAW = intensive care unit–acquired weakness.

# SHORT AND LONG TERM RECOVERY IN SEPSIS SURVIVORS

---



# Unplanned Readmission Within 7 days



1 in 20

(Median 6.6 days)

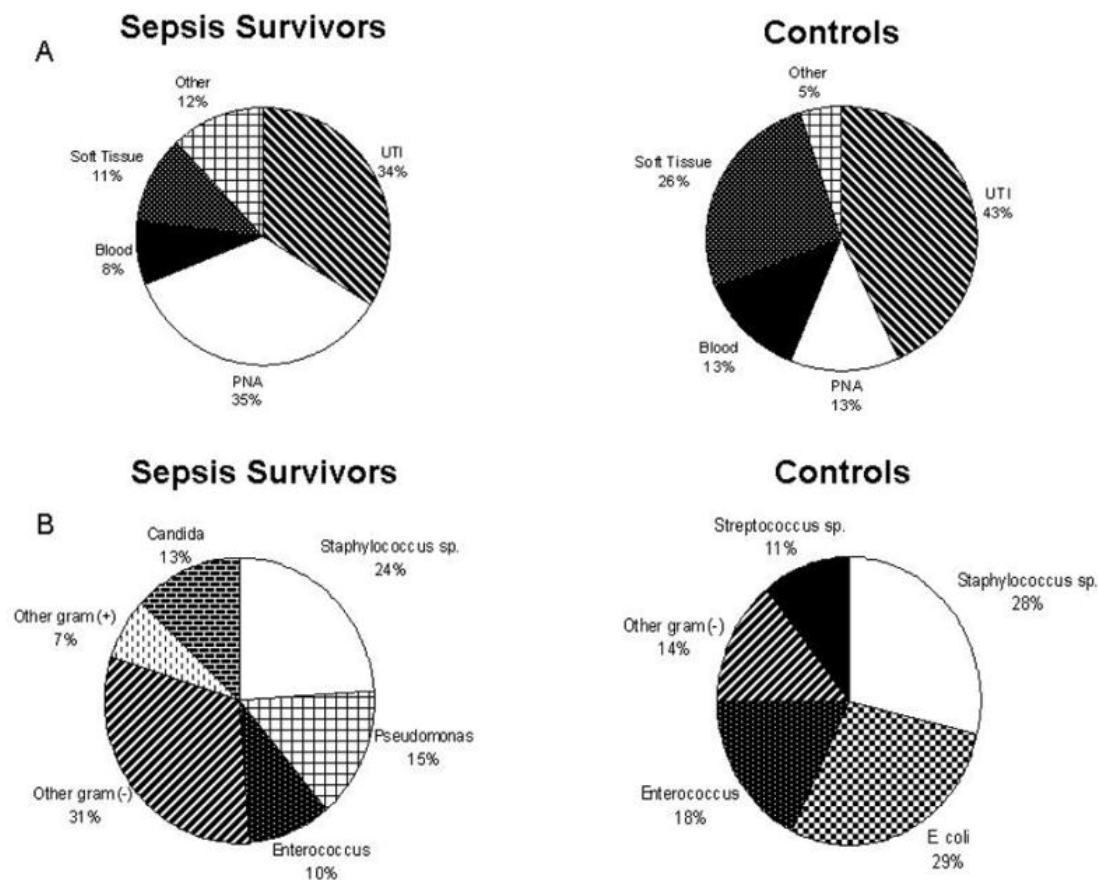
# Characteristics

- Most common infections were urinary tract and respiratory
- Most common organ dysfunction respiratory, cardiovascular and renal



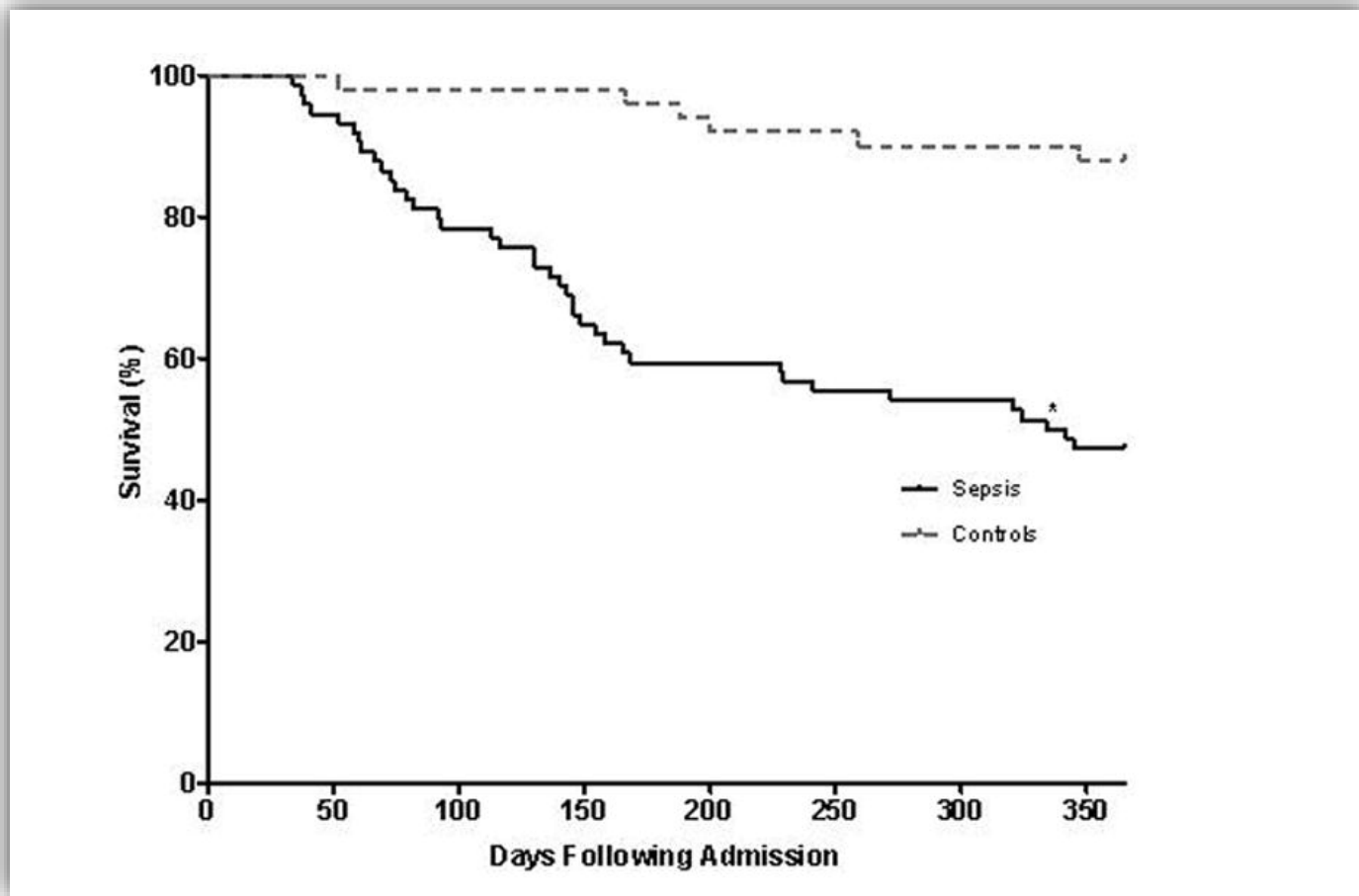
Severe sepsis patients readmitted within 30 days (median 19.3).

# Recurrent Sites of Infection and Microorganisms Implicated





# One-year Survival - Sepsis vs Controls



# Factors Associated with Readmission

Variables	Cohort n=444	No Readmission n=340	Readmission n=104	P
Sepsis- POA- present on admission	320 (72.1)	249 (73.2)	71 (68.3)	0.04
Any transfusion	211 (47.5)	150 (44.1)	61 (58.6)	0.009
Total parenteral nutrition use	48 (10.8)	26 (7.6)	22 (21.2)	< 0.001
Duration of antibiotics	9 (5–15)	8 (5–14)	12 (6–18)	< 0.001

Patient characteristics: Average age 59 years old, 50% women, 64% admitted through emergency department, and 50% were admitted to the hospital in the past year. Pneumonia was the most common infection source.

Table. Length of Stay and Cost for Unplanned 30-Day Readmissions After an Index Admission for Sepsis, Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, Pneumonia, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

	National Readmission Data <sup>a</sup>		Estimated Mean Cost per Readmission (95% CI), \$ <sup>b</sup>	Weighted Proportion of Cases in the United States	
	No. of All Index Admissions Readmitted Within 30 Days	Estimated Mean Length of Stay (95% CI), d <sup>b</sup>		Percentage of Index Admissions Readmitted Within 30 Days (95% CI)	Percentage of Total Estimated Cost of All Readmissions (95% CI)
Admissions associated with 30 d readmission	1 187 697	6.4 (6.4-6.5)	8242 (8225-8258)	NA	100.0
<b>Primary Analyses<sup>c</sup></b>					
Sepsis	147 084	7.4 (7.3-7.4)	10 070 (10 021-10 119)	12.2 (11.9-12.4)	14.5 (14.2-14.8)
Acute myocardial infarction	15 001	5.7 (5.6-5.8)	9424 (9279-9571)	1.2 (1.2-1.3)	1.4 (1.3-1.5)
Heart failure	79 480	6.4 (6.4-6.5)	9051 (8990-9113)	6.7 (6.5-6.8)	7.5 (7.3-7.7)
Pneumonia	59 378	6.7 (6.6-6.7)	9533 (9466-9600)	5.2 (5.0-5.3)	5.5 (5.4-5.7)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	54 396	6.0 (5.9-6.0)	8417 (8355-8480)	4.6 (4.5-4.8)	4.3 (4.1-4.4)
<b>Sensitivity Analyses<sup>d</sup></b>					
Sepsis	89 800	7.6 (7.6-7.7)	10 828 (10 760-10 897)	7.3 (7.1-7.5)	9.1 (8.8-9.4)
Acute myocardial infarction	21 281	6.0 (5.9-6.1)	9530 (9408-9654)	1.8 (1.7-1.8)	2.0 (1.9-2.1)
Heart failure	236 636	6.5 (6.5-6.5)	9248 (9211-9285)	20.0 (19.6-20.4)	22.1 (21.6-22.6)
Pneumonia	130 904	6.9 (6.9-7.0)	9749 (9700-9797)	11.1 (10.9-11.4)	12.5 (12.2-12.8)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	201 867	6.3 (6.3-6.4)	8677 (8641-8713)	17.4 (17-17.7)	17.2 (16.7-17.7)

Mayr, F. B., Talisa, V. B., Balakumar, V., Chang, C. H., Fine, M., & Yende, S. (2017). Proportion and cost of unplanned 30-day readmissions after sepsis compared with other medical conditions. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 317(5), 530. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.20468

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE



# Increased 1-Year Healthcare Use in Survivors of Severe Sepsis

Hallie C. Prescott<sup>1</sup>, Kenneth M. Langa<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Vincent Liu<sup>4</sup>, Gabriel J. Escobar<sup>4</sup>, and Theodore J. Iwashyna<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; <sup>2</sup>VA Center for Clinical Management Research, HSR&D Center for Excellence, Ann Arbor, Michigan; <sup>3</sup>Institute for Social Research, Ann Arbor, Michigan; and <sup>4</sup>Kaiser Permanente Division of Research, Oakland, California

### Abstract

**Rationale:** Hospitalizations for severe sepsis are common, and a growing number of patients survive to hospital discharge. Nonetheless, little is known about survivors' post-discharge healthcare use.

**Objectives:** To measure inpatient healthcare use of severe sepsis survivors compared with patients' own presepsis resource use and the resource use of survivors of otherwise similar nonsepsis hospitalizations.

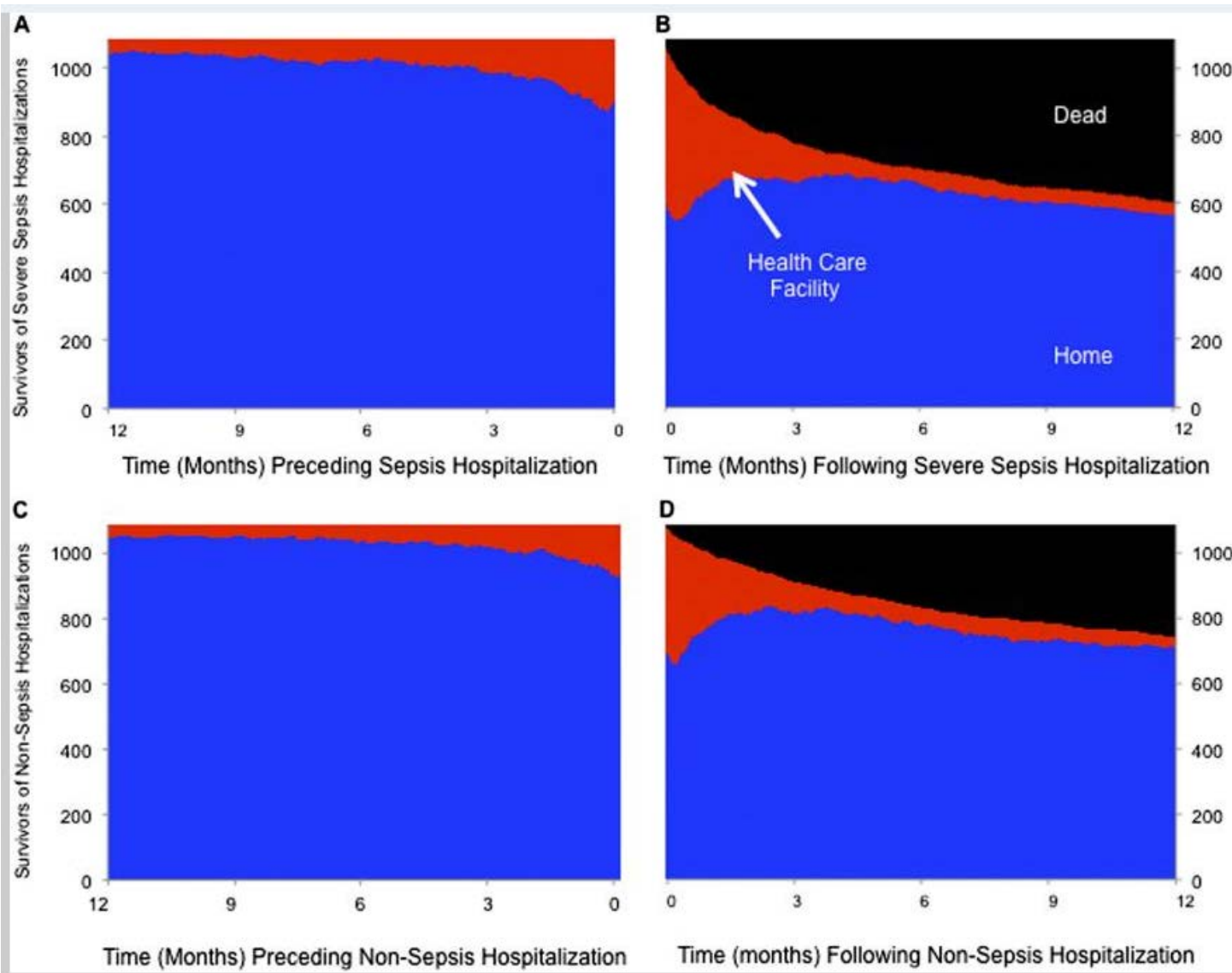
**Methods:** This is an observational cohort study of survivors of severe sepsis and nonsepsis hospitalizations identified from participants in the Health and Retirement Study with linked Medicare claims, 1998–2005. We matched severe sepsis and nonsepsis hospitalizations by demographics, comorbidity burden, premorbid disability, hospitalization length, and intensive care use.

**Measurements and Main Results:** Using Medicare claims, we measured patients' use of inpatient facilities (hospitals, long-term acute care hospitals, and skilled nursing facilities) in the 2 years

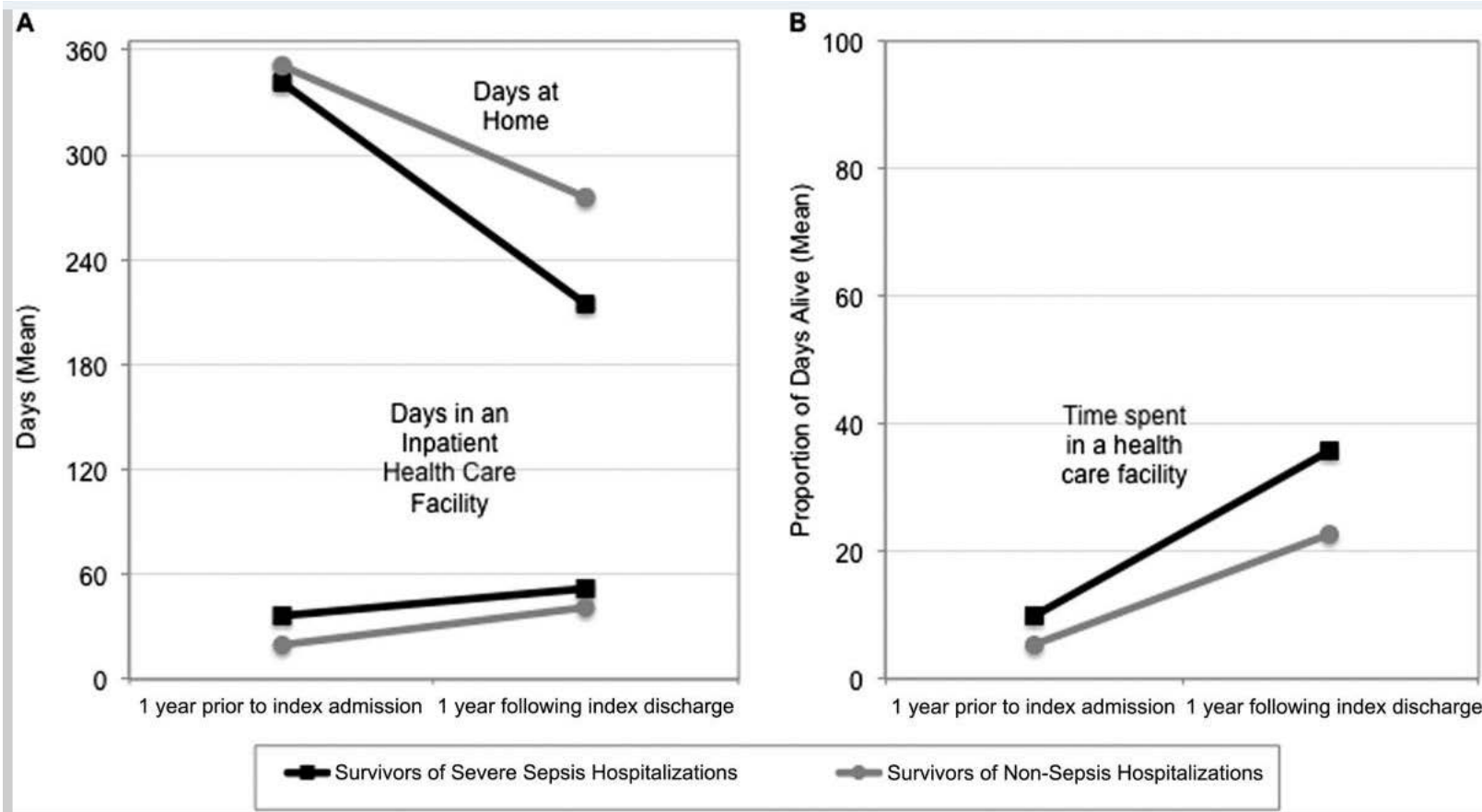
surrounding hospitalization. Severe sepsis survivors spent more days (median, 16 [interquartile range, 3–45] vs. 7 [0–29];  $P < 0.001$ ) and a higher proportion of days alive (median, 9.6% [interquartile range, 1.4–33.8%] vs. 1.9% [0.0–7.9%];  $P < 0.001$ ) admitted to facilities in the year after hospitalization, compared with the year prior. The increase in facility-days was similar for nonsepsis hospitalizations. However, the severe sepsis cohort experienced greater post-discharge mortality (44.2% [95% confidence interval, 41.3–47.2%] vs. 31.4% [95% confidence interval, 28.6–34.2%] at 1 year), a steeper decline in days spent at home (difference-in-differences,  $-38.6$  d [95% confidence interval,  $-50.9$  to 26.3];  $P < 0.001$ ), and a greater increase in the proportion of days alive spent in a facility (difference-in-differences, 5.4% [95% confidence interval, 2.8–8.1%];  $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** Healthcare use is markedly elevated after severe sepsis, and post-discharge management may be an opportunity to reduce resource use.

**Keywords:** patient outcomes assessment; hospitalization; patient readmission; skilled nursing facility; healthcare facilities



Prescott HC et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2014 Jul 1; 190(1): 62–69.



Prescott et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2014 Jul 1; 190(1): 62–69.

# Sepsis survivors often have long-term sequelae

- Readmissions after sepsis more likely to result in death or hospice care.
- Coordinated care between the hospital, patient and providers has been successful in other diseases.



Donnelly, J (2015). *Critical Care Medicine*, 43(9), 1916-1927.

Jones. (2015). *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*, 12(6), 904-913.

# Ethical and Legal Issues

## Ethics

- Improved survival may not equal improved quality of life

## Law

- At risk patients should be identified to promote a safe discharge.

## Risk Management and Cost

- Risk for litigation.
- Unplanned readmission may not be reimbursed.



To Your Health

The Washington Post

**A father went to the hospital with stomach pain.  
He left without his hands and feet.<sup>6</sup>**



Holley, P. Father went to the hospital with stomach pain-he left without his hands and feet. Washington Post. March 18, 2017. Retrieved from [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2017/03/18/a-father-went-to-the-hospital-with-stomach-pain-he-left-without-his-hands-and-feet/?utm\\_term=.2834bb00f45c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2017/03/18/a-father-went-to-the-hospital-with-stomach-pain-he-left-without-his-hands-and-feet/?utm_term=.2834bb00f45c)



## NIH Public Access

### Author Manuscript

*JAMA*. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2012 May 06.

Published in final edited form as:

*JAMA*. 2010 October 27; 304(16): 1787–1794. doi:10.1001/jama.2010.1553.

## Long-term Cognitive Impairment and Functional Disability Among Survivors of Severe Sepsis

Theodore J. Iwashyna, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, E. Wesley Ely, MD, MPH<sup>2</sup>, Dylan M. Smith, PhD<sup>3</sup>, and  
Kenneth M. Langa, MD, PhD<sup>1,4,5</sup>

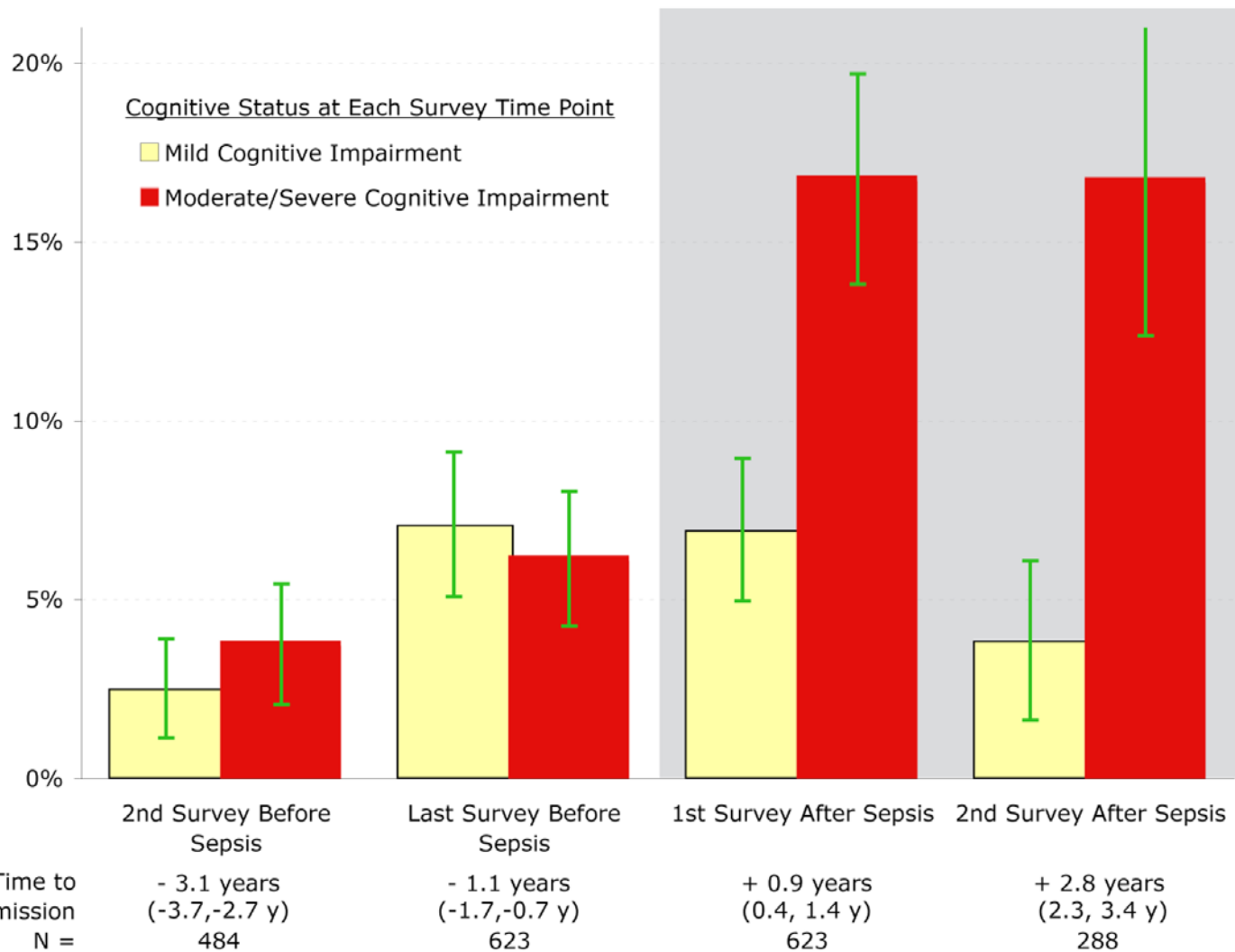
<sup>1</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Michigan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee and the VA Tennessee Valley Geriatric Research and Education Clinical Center (GRECC)

<sup>3</sup>Department of Preventive Medicine, Stony Brook University Medical Center, Stony Brook, New York

<sup>4</sup>Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

<sup>5</sup>Ann Arbor VA HSR&D Center of Excellence

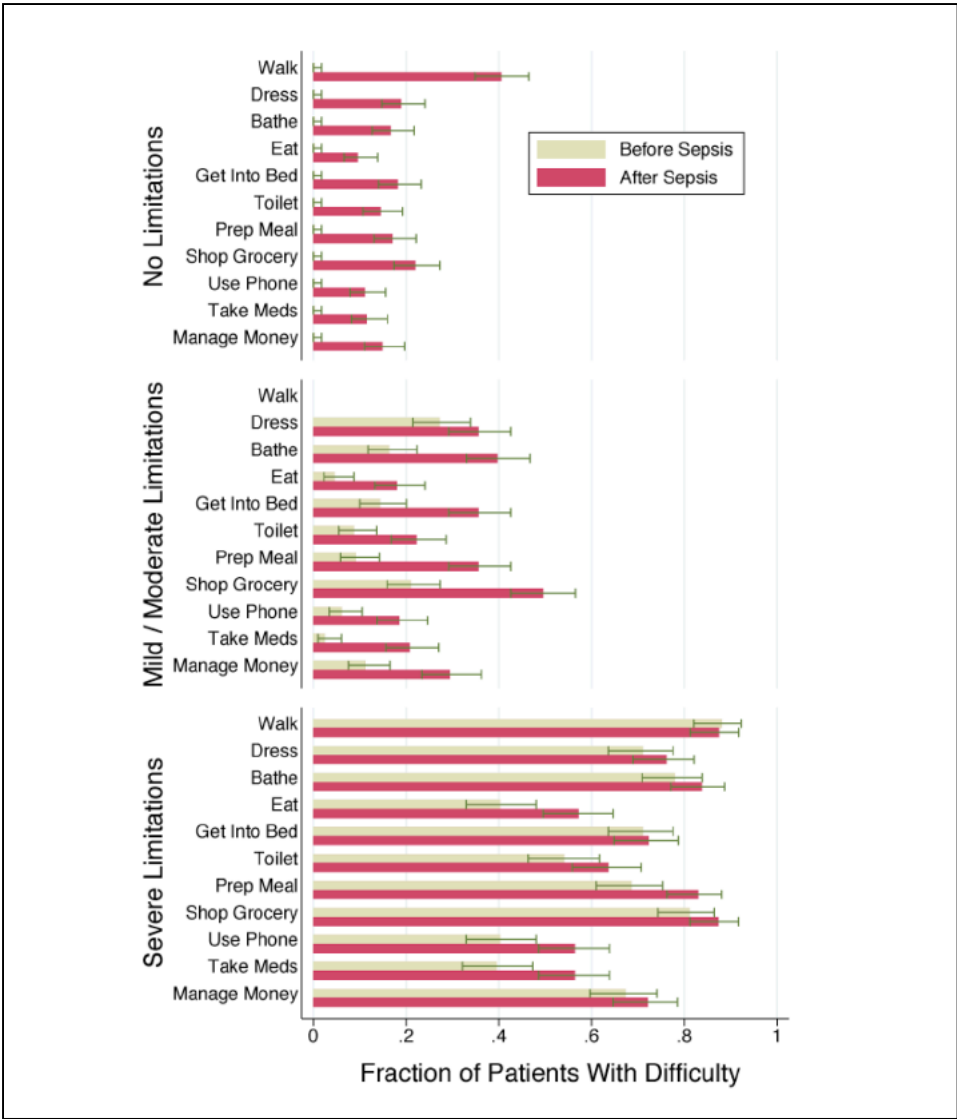


Iwashyna TJ et al. JAMA. 2010;304(16):1787-1794. doi:10.1001/jama.2010.1553

# Severe Sepsis and Moderate to Severe Cognitive Impairment Among Survivors

	Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	<i>P</i> Value
Before sepsis (per additional year)	1.35 (1.11-1.65)	.002
Effect of sepsis	3.34 (1.53-7.25)	.002
After sepsis (per additional year)	1.68 (1.28-2.21)	.001

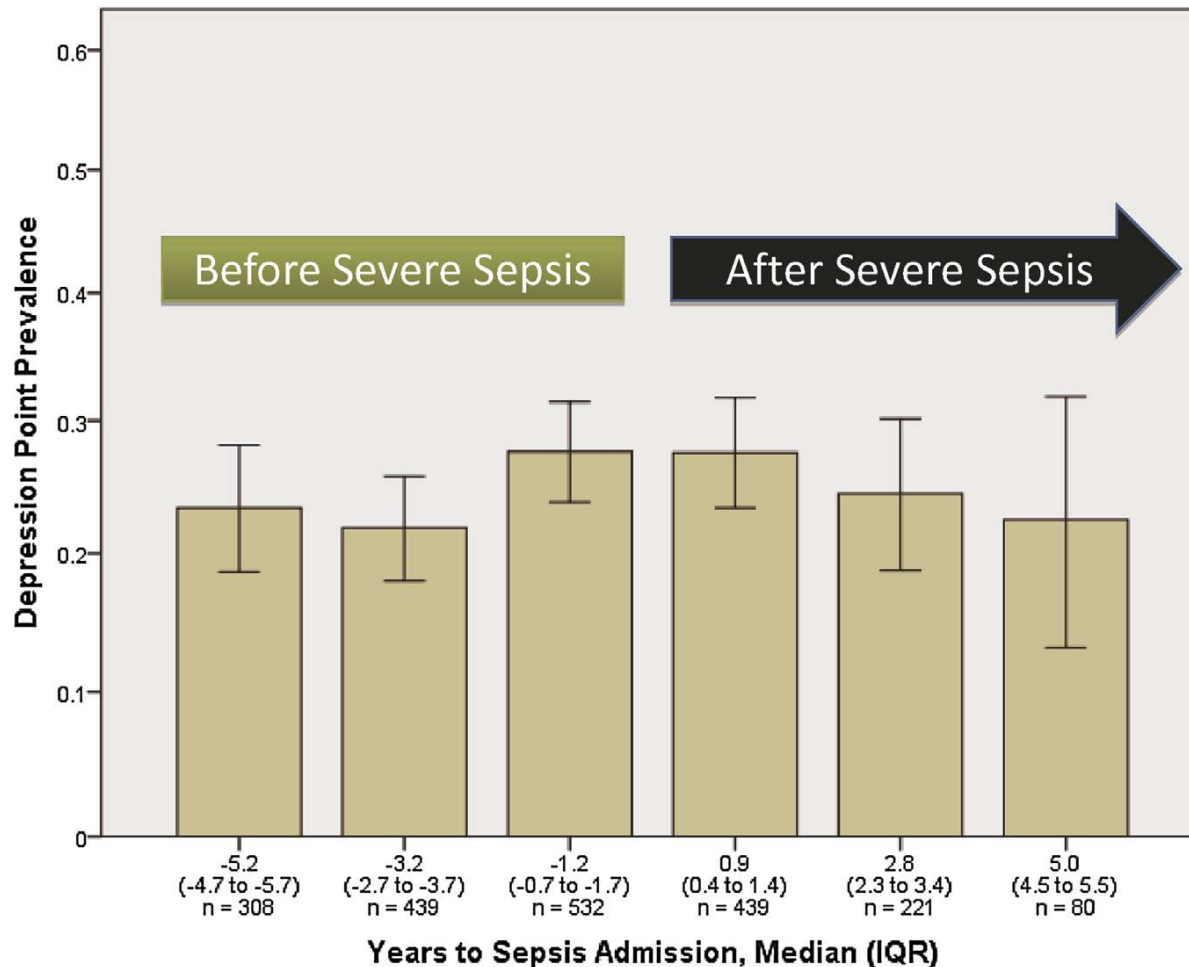
- With each passing year, patients were modestly more likely to develop moderate to severe cognitive impairment.
- After severe sepsis, survivors had a 3.3 fold greater odds of having moderate to severe cognitive impairment than before sepsis



# Conclusion

- Severe sepsis in this older population was independently associated with significant new cognitive impairment and functional disability among survivors.
- These new deficits likely result in a decline in patients' ability to live independently.
- Identifying modifiable components of hospital and rehabilitation care to prevent these disabilities would be valuable for patients and their families.

# Symptoms of Depression in Survivors of Severe Sepsis



Error bars: 95% CI



# RESOURCES & FUTURE RESEARCH

---



# Educate Patients and Families

**Tips for Prevention**

*You can help prevent sepsis by getting vaccinations against the flu and pneumonia ...*



*... and practicing good hygiene such as handwashing.*



**Early SEPSIS treatment SAVES LIVES!**

**SUMMARY**

Sepsis is caused by many common infections

- Symptoms include fever, fast heartbeat and weakness
- Seek healthcare if you think you or your loved one has sepsis
- Help prevent sepsis with handwashing

**What you know about SEPSIS can save a life**

*The first step to survival is sepsis awareness.*

Know four important points about sepsis:

1. Common causes of sepsis
2. Signs and symptoms of sepsis
3. Steps to take if you think you have sepsis
4. How to prevent sepsis

**Sepsis is a health emergency. Treat Early to Save Lives**

In association with New Jersey Hospital Association



**WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HEALTH**

# LIFE AFTER SEPSIS FACT SHEET

## WHAT SEPSIS SURVIVORS NEED TO KNOW

### ABOUT SEPSIS

#### What is sepsis?

Sepsis is a complication caused by the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to an infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.

#### What causes sepsis?

Any type of infection that is anywhere in your body can cause sepsis. It is often associated with infections of the lungs (e.g., pneumonia), urinary tract (e.g., kidney), skin, and gut. An infection occurs when germs enter a person's body and multiply, causing illness and organ and tissue damage.

### LIFE AFTER SEPSIS

#### What are the first steps in recovery?

After you have had sepsis, rehabilitation usually starts in the hospital by slowly helping you to move around and look after yourself: bathing, sitting up, standing, walking, taking yourself to the restroom, etc. The purpose of rehabilitation is to restore you back to your previous level of health or as close to it as possible. Begin your rehabilitation by building up your activities slowly, and rest when you are tired.

#### How will I feel when I get home?

You have been seriously ill, and your body and mind need time to get better. You may experience the following physical symptoms upon returning home:

- General to extreme weakness and fatigue
- Breathlessness
- General body pains or aches
- Difficulty moving around
- Difficulty sleeping
- Weight loss, lack of appetite, food not tasting normal
- Dry and itchy skin that may peel
- Brittle nails
- Hair loss



Many survivors  
are left with  
**LIFE-CHANGING**  
challenges.



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for Emerging and  
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

CS257671D

## LIFE AFTER SEPSIS FACT SHEET

It is also not unusual to have the following feelings once you're at home:

- Unsure of yourself
- Not caring about your appearance
- Wanting to be alone, avoiding friends and family
- Flashbacks, bad memories
- Confusing reality (e.g., not sure what is real and what isn't)
- Feeling anxious, more worried than usual
- Poor concentration
- Depressed, angry, unmotivated
- Frustration at not being able to do everyday tasks

#### What can I do to help myself recover at home?

- Set small, achievable goals for yourself each week, such as taking a bath, dressing yourself, or walking up the stairs
- Rest and rebuild your strength
- Talk about what you are feeling to family and friends
- Record your thoughts, struggles, and milestones in a journal
- Learn about sepsis to understand what happened
- Ask your family to fill in any gaps you may have in your memory about what happened to you
- Eat a balanced diet
- Exercise if you feel up to it
- Make a list of questions to ask your doctor when you go for a check up

#### Are there any long-term effects of sepsis?

Many people who survive sepsis recover completely and their lives return to normal. However, as with some other illnesses requiring intensive medical care, some patients have long-term effects. These problems may not become apparent for several weeks (post-sepsis), and may include such consequences as:

- Insomnia, difficulty getting to or staying asleep
- Nightmares, vivid hallucinations, panic attacks
- Disabling muscle and joint pains
- Decreased mental (cognitive) functioning
- Loss of self-esteem and self-belief
- Organ dysfunction (kidney failure, respiratory problems, etc.)
- Amputations (loss of limb(s))

#### What's normal and when should I be concerned?

Generally, the problems described in this fact sheet do improve with time. They are a normal response to what you have been through.

Some hospitals have follow-up clinics or staff to help patients and families once they have been discharged. Find out if yours does or if there are local resources available to help you while you get better.

However, if you feel that you are not getting better, or finding it difficult to cope, or continue to be exhausted call your doctor.

#### Where can I get more information?

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—CDC works 24/7 protecting America's health, safety and security. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are curable or preventable, chronic or acute, stem from human error or deliberate attack, CDC is committed to responding to America's most pressing health challenges. [cdc.gov/sepsis](http://cdc.gov/sepsis) [cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections](http://cdc.gov/cancer/preventinfections)
- The Rory Staunton Foundation for Sepsis Prevention— Supports education and outreach efforts aimed at rapid diagnosis and treatment of sepsis, particularly in children. [rorystauntonfoundationforsepsis.org](http://rorystauntonfoundationforsepsis.org)
- Sepsis Alliance®—Created to raise sepsis awareness among both the general public and healthcare professionals. Sepsis Alliance offers information on a variety of sepsis-related topics. Visit [sepsis.org/library](http://sepsis.org/library) to view the complete series of titles. [sepsis.org](http://sepsis.org)

THE RORY STAUNTON FOUNDATION  
FOR SEPSIS PREVENTION

SEPSIS ALLIANCE  
Supporting Sepsis Care

This fact sheet was developed in collaboration with CDC, Sepsis Alliance® and the Rory Staunton Foundation for Sepsis Prevention.

Connect With Patients and Families ▶

What To Expect Before and After Discharge ▶

Patient and Family Resources ▶

I Am A Healthcare Provider ▶


Ask A Healthcare Provider ▶

Post-intensive Care Syndrome ▶

🏠 [Patients and Families](#) > [After the ICU](#)

[Tweet](#)

## THRIVE

Every year, millions of Americans survive critical illness; but despite the efforts of their ICU, many are left with ongoing problems. The current health care system often does not meet the needs of these survivors, or their families, during their weeks to years of recovery. SCCM seeks to improve patient and family support after critical illness through the THRIVE Initiative. 



### CONNECT WITH PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Connect with other ICU survivors, including former ICU patients and/or family members of ICU patients.



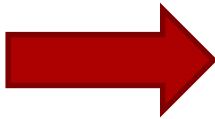
### WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE AND AFTER DISCHARGE

Learn what to expect with the physical and psychological aspects of recovery.



### THRIVE: REDEFINING RECOVERY

Learn more about the THRIVE initiative and post-intensive care syndrome.



### PATIENT AND FAMILY RESOURCES

Find resources to help patients and families THRIVE after the ICU.



### I AM A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

Learn more about how to get involved with THRIVE initiatives.



### ASK A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

Get answers to frequently asked questions regarding ICUs.

# Physician Letter Template

DATE:

TO:

Dr.

FROM:

Dr.

PHONE:

RE:

Patient:

I recently cared for your patient, referenced above, in our intensive care unit. This patient had the following diagnoses and hospital course.

Diagnoses:

Hospital course (insert narrative):

Surgeries/procedures:

Discharge medications (mark psychotropic medications with asterisks):

I would also like to make you aware of post-intensive care syndrome (PICS), a pattern of symptoms experienced by some patients who have been hospitalized in the ICU. Often these symptoms go unrecognized; sometimes patients are reluctant to admit that they are experiencing them.

#### What are the symptoms of PICS?

- **Functional deficits.** Patients may experience this even if they were not in the ICU for a long period of time. They may report:
  - Chronic fatigue and weakness
  - Inability to perform even basic activities of daily living
  - *It is important to note that the deficit may appear to be unrelated to the reason for the patient's ICU admission (eg, a patient admitted for urosepsis may have upper extremity weakness). Other medical causes must be ruled out, but PICS should be considered a possibility.*

- **Posttraumatic stress symptoms.** Patients sometimes experience depression, be easily startled, have nightmares, have avoidance symptoms that might manifest as missing appointments due to fear of going to the hospital/medical center.
- **Anxiety, depression, and/or sleep problems.**
- **Memory loss and/or other cognitive deficits.** Patients may say that they are unable to perform cognitive functions that were easy for them before their illness.

PICS can also affect family members (this is called PICS-F); they may experience symptoms of depression and anxiety for months after the patient comes home.

#### What should be done if a patient or family member exhibits symptoms consistent with PICS or PICS-F?

It is very important to reassure patients and families with PICS that what they are experiencing is not unusual for people who have been hospitalized in the ICU. Although we are still learning about how best to treat PICS, here are some articles that you may find useful:

Davidson JE, Harvey MA, Schuller J. Post-intensive care syndrome: what it is and how to help prevent it. *Am Nurse Today*. 2013;8(5):32-37.

Davidson JE, Jones C, Bienvenu OJ. Family response to critical illness: postintensive care syndrome - family. *Crit Care Med*. 2012 Feb;40(2):618-624.

Needham DM, Davidson J, Cohen H, et al. Improving long-term outcomes after discharge from intensive care unit: report from a stakeholders' conference. *Crit Care Med*. 2012 Feb;40(2):502-509.

The **Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM)** website also has a wealth of information that may assist you, the patient, and the family. Here's how to find it:

- On the website [www.sccm.org](http://www.sccm.org), the initial screen has four tabs at the top.
- Click on the "Patient and Families" tab.
- Click on the drop-down menu "After the ICU."
- Click on "Post-Intensive Care Syndrome" to get additional information.
- Information can also be obtained at <http://www.myicucare.org/Thrive>, the new THRIVE Initiative website specifically devoted to PICS information.

Finally, patients and family members with symptoms of PICS or PICS-F may benefit from referral to a mental health professional—a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, or other mental health counselor can often assist patients and families in developing coping strategies for dealing with this syndrome.

I would be happy to speak with you any time if you have questions about this patient's ICU course or about PICS. Feel free to contact me at the phone number shown above.



APRIL 17, 2018

## News

- ▶ All News Archive
- ▶ IHPI Informs Newsletter
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Profiles in Innovation
- ▶ The List: IHPI Top Policy Insights of 2017

# One-stop shop: New clinic bundles key services after ICU discharge

U-M HEALTH LAB

After close observation and treatment in an intensive care unit, patients who have fought through their critical illness are sent home to continue recovery.

But then what?

For many patients, they may not be prepared for the recovery process following an ICU admission.

"It's interesting, because we all celebrate when a patient survives a severe critical illness and is able to go home, but really that's only half of the battle," says Jakob McSparron, M.D., assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Michigan Medicine. "The next step is thinking about follow-up care and how to help them recover effectively and keep them from being hospitalized again."

## The University of Michigan Post ICU Longitudinal Survivor Experience Clinic (U-M PULSE)

"Many people are not connected with a support system and health care providers. For example, a 30-year-old who was completely healthy, became critically ill, and now is just not able to return to their normal routine."

Although the clinic, which opened in March at Michigan Medicine's Taubman Center, is looking internally at ICU patients within Michigan Medicine, it is also open to patients who have recently stayed in an ICU elsewhere.

# What does the first clinic include?



Surveys to assess QOL & Limitations

Testing for pulmonary function, fitness & mobility

Meet with pharmacist to review medication

Social work consult and cognitive testing



# A Personal Comprehensive Approach



The 3-providers meet to discuss their exams and determine service and follow-up patient needs.

- The team meets with the patient to outline the plan, establish referrals and assist in access to care.
- A six-month follow-up, telephone and virtual check-ins are scheduled

**BMJ Open IMPOSE (IMProving Outcomes after Sepsis) – the effect of a multidisciplinary follow-up service on health-related quality of life in patients postsepsis syndromes – a double-blinded randomised controlled trial: protocol**

---

Jennifer D Paratz,<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Justin Kenardy,<sup>5</sup> Geoffrey Mitchell,<sup>6</sup> Tracy Comans,<sup>7</sup> Fiona Coyer,<sup>8</sup> Peter Thomas,<sup>1,2,4</sup> Sunil Singh,<sup>9</sup> Louise Luparia,<sup>1,3</sup> Robert J Boots<sup>1,2</sup>

204 postsepsis syndromes randomized to usual care vs. attending an outpatient clinic two monthly for 6 months and receive screening and targeted intervention outpatient clinic.

Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry ACTRN12613000528752.



# HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF SEPSIS SURVIVORSHIP



  
**SEPSIS ALLIANCE**  
*Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.*  
**SEPSIS.ORG**

  
**Society of  
Critical Care Medicine**  
*The Intensive Care Professionals*  
**SCCM.ORG**

## Life After Sepsis


 Sepsis Alliance  
 **Subscribe** 865

Try YouTube TV for free

Watch live TV from 60+ channels

# Post-Sepsis Syndrome – PSS

Life After Sepsis



- ⇒ DIFFICULTY WITH MEMORY OR CONCENTRATION
- ⇒ ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION
- ⇒ WEAKNESS AND DIFFICULTY COMPLETING ROUTINE TASKS, SUCH AS DRESSING & BATHING
- ⇒ RECURRENT INFECTION
- ⇒ SET-BACKS IN THE ABILITY TO CONTROL CHRONIC HEART, LUNG AND KIDNEY DISEASES

Watch on youtube.com

0:49 / 3:58

CC YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hlk64wdy44Q>

# References

1. Prescott, H. C., Langa, K. M., Liu, V., Escobar, G. J., & Iwashyna, T. J. (2014). Increased 1-year healthcare use in survivors of severe sepsis. *American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine*, 190(1), 62-69.
2. Wang, T., Derhovanessian, A., De Cruz, S., Belperio, J. A., Deng, J. C., & Hoo, G. S. (2014). Subsequent infections in survivors of sepsis: epidemiology and outcomes. *Journal of intensive care medicine*, 29(2), 87-95.
3. Davydow, D. S., Hough, C. L., Langa, K. M., & Iwashyna, T. J. (2013). Symptoms of depression in survivors of severe sepsis: a prospective cohort study of older Americans. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 21(9), 887-897.
4. Paratz, J. D., Kenardy, J., Mitchell, G., Comans, T., Coyer, F., Thomas, P., ... & Boots, R. J. (2014). IMPOSE (IMProving Outcomes after Sepsis)—the effect of a multidisciplinary follow-up service on health-related quality of life in patients postsepsis syndromes—a double-blinded randomised controlled trial: protocol. *BMJ open*, 4(5), e004966.
5. Schmidt, K., Thiel, P., Mueller, F., Schmuecker, K., Worrack, S., Mehlhorn, J., ... & Bindara-Klippel, A. (2014). Sepsis survivors monitoring and coordination in outpatient health care (SMOOTH): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials*, 15(1), 283.
6. Centers for disease control and prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/pdfs/life-after-sepsis-fact-sheet.pdf> Accessed September 4, 2018.
7. Sepsis Alliance. Post-sepsis syndrome – PSS. <https://www.sepsis.org/life-after-sepsis/post-sepsis-syndrome/> Accessed September 4, 2018.
8. Iwashyna, T. J., Ely, E. W., Smith, D. M., & Langa, K. M. (2010). Long-term cognitive impairment and functional disability among survivors of severe sepsis. *Jama*, 304(16), 1787-1794.

Thank you for your time

