

Problem Statement

Maternal sepsis remains a leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide, responsible for more than 10% of maternal deaths worldwide. It is associated with increased incidence of neonatal sepsis and poor outcome for both mother and fetus. Morbidity and mortality stem from the “three deadly delays.”

- **Delay in recognition**
- **Delay in treatment**
- **Delay in escalation of care**

There are significant racial, ethnic, and social disparities associated with maternal morbidity and mortality. Increasing awareness of these disparities and working towards eliminating them is essential to providing quality care to our patients.

Key Interventions

- For 2025, Geisinger Community Medical Center focused on education for the OB and ED staff to help increase understanding of maternal sepsis and its implications for our patients. A specific emphasis was made on racial, ethnic, and social disparities and how they affect care of maternal patients. This was completed through:
 - Lecture-based learning for OB and ED staff with a case study/simulation component at the end of the session
 - Maternal Sepsis Module through Lippincott® Solutions for OB nurses and providers
 - AWHONN’s Escape the Perinatal Emergency, Sepsis in Obstetric Care escape room for all OB nurses



“On this topic, our team would like to learn from our peers”

- *With our current EMR, we do not have a specific Maternal Early Warning Trigger in EPIC. Do any institutions have this in place?*
- *Also, how to develop an OB Specific Maternal Sepsis Alert/Policy?*

Focus Area:

OB nurses receive regular education on maternal patients, so for this initiative, we focused on ED nurses and OB providers. However, we did experience significant struggles with buy-in from the ED

Measures/Results

- *100% of OB nurses attended the Maternal Sepsis escape room and completed the Lippincott module*
- *79% of OB providers completed the Lippincott module*
- *Several ED nurses attended the Maternal Sepsis Lecture and Escape Room*

References:

Society of Critical Care Medicine: FCCS Obstetrics Sepsis Lecture: 2022
[NIH Funding to Identify and Address Barriers and Strategies in the care of Maternal Sepsis \(two stages\) \(papqc.org\)](https://www.nih.gov/funding/identify-address-barriers-strategies-care-maternal-sepsis) Dr. Melissa E Bauer, D.O Duke University
[Racial Equity in Sepsis Care Matters | Sepsis Alliance](https://www.sepsisalliance.org/racial-equity-in-sepsis-care-matters)