



Problem Statement

Maternal sepsis remains a leading cause of preventable maternal morbidity and mortality, with disproportionate impact on Black, Indigenous, and other women of color (BIPOC) due to variations in early recognition, timely diagnosis, and access to care. At Penn State Health Hampden Medical Center, opportunities were identified to strengthen consistency in maternal sepsis education and screening practices across the Emergency Department (ED), Labor & Delivery (L&D), and Postpartum (PP) settings.

Prior to implementation, variability existed in:

- Provider and staff education related to maternal sepsis recognition and response
- Standardized screening practices during triage and admission workflows
- Real-time data visibility to monitor compliance and identify disparities
- Community awareness and patient understanding of early warning signs and when to seek care

These gaps created a risk for delayed identification and treatment of maternal sepsis, particularly among patients from historically underserved racial and socioeconomic populations.



PennState Health Hampden Medical Center

Key Interventions & Results

Implemented OB Sepsis Power Plan: Standardized screening and management in ED, L&D, and PP units at Hampden. This power plan is used regardless of racial and socioeconomic disparities.

Education and Training: 100% staff education in L&D/PP, Sepsis training for all new hires, and annual learning module in development.

Patient Education: 100% of patients receive education on early warning signs and reasons to notify providers.

Case Review & System Learning: Reviewed cases involving maternal sepsis across the Penn State Health system to identify opportunities and help to prevent future events.



Focus Area

To address these disparities, a comprehensive maternal sepsis education and screening program is needed to ensure:

- Consistent, evidence-based education for all providers and staff
- Standardized screening processes embedded into clinical workflows
- Real-time data monitoring to identify and respond to inequities
- Expanded community outreach and patient education to improve early recognition

This initiative directly supports organizational priorities to advance health equity, reduce disparities in maternal outcomes, and improve the early detection and treatment of maternal sepsis across all populations.



Status

As of March 31, 2026, Penn State Health Hampden Medical Center has successfully implemented the maternal sepsis education and screening program across the Emergency Department (ED), Labor & Delivery (L&D), and Postpartum (PP) units.

- The OB Sepsis Power Plan went live in February 2026 and is now fully integrated into all triage and admission workflows, supporting standardized screening practices across care settings.
- Staff and provider education has been completed, with participation rates approaching the 90% target. Education included evidence-based content, workflow integration, and reinforcement of early recognition and escalation of care.
- Community and patient education efforts have been initiated, including distribution of educational materials and reinforcement of early warning signs through teach-back methods.

Early data demonstrates strong adoption of screening practices, with progress toward achieving ≥90% screening compliance among BIPOC patients. No significant disparities have been identified to date; however, monitoring remains ongoing to ensure equitable and sustained outcomes. This initiative is currently in the implementation and optimization phase, with continued focus on sustaining education, refining workflows, and leveraging data to drive equitable maternal outcomes.

The screenshot displays a complex interface with multiple rows of medical orders and alerts. Key elements include:

- Alerts:** Several yellow and orange banners at the top, such as "OB Sepsis Power Plan" and "Maternal Sepsis Screening", indicating active clinical alerts.
- Order List:** A table of medical orders with columns for order type, medication/dose, and status.
- Navigation:** A sidebar on the left with various menu options like "Patient Care", "Orders", and "Alerts".

February 2026



CLINICAL UPDATE: NEW OB SEPSIS POWERPLAN NOW LIVE

Attention: All ordering providers caring for OB patients

What is changing?

A new OB Maternal Sepsis PowerPlan is now live and available across the entire health system within Cerner. This standardized order set is designed to simplify and accelerate the management of maternal sepsis.

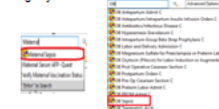
When to use it

- Immediately upon the identification of suspected or confirmed maternal sepsis.
- Early intervention is critical: starting antibiotics in a timely manner significantly improves patient survival rates.

Where to find it

The PowerPlan can be quickly located in Cerner by searching for any of the following keywords:

- "OB"
- "Maternal"
- "Sepsis"



Why it matters

Optimized Outcomes: Streamlining the ordering process ensures patients receive life-saving treatments like fluid resuscitation and antibiotics more quickly.

Evidence-Based Care: Standardizes treatment to align with best practices ensuring efficacy and consistency across the health system.



Measures

Maternal Sepsis Education Completion Rate

- Definition: Percentage of staff and providers who completed maternal sepsis education and training
- Goal: ≥ 90% completion

Maternal Sepsis Screening Compliance

- Definition: Percentage of eligible patients screened using the OB Sepsis Power Plan during ED, L&D, and PP triage/admission
- Goal: ≥ 90% overall compliance

Equity-Focused Screening Compliance

- Definition: Percentage of BIPOC patients screened for maternal sepsis
- Goal: ≥ 90% compliance among BIPOC patients

Patient Education Delivery

- Definition: Percentage of patients receiving maternal sepsis education prior to discharge (including teach-back documentation)
- Goal: ≥ 95%