

# Sepsis in Obstetric Care

Anderson Campus (SLRA) - Allentown Campus (SLA) - Upper Bucks Campus (SLUB)

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## Aim

- To decrease the rate of maternal sepsis by 10% by April 2025 by improving recognition, treatment, and escalation of care

## Background

- Maternal sepsis is a significant public health issue, contributing to high incidence of maternal morbidity and mortality
- Improving staff knowledge of the signs and symptoms of maternal sepsis will help to improve timely patient education and care

## Plan & Key Interventions

- Assign maternal sepsis educational modules to all OB nurses and providers
- Collaborate with clinical specialties to implement a multidisciplinary approach to reducing maternal sepsis
- Ensure utilization of current standards of care with sepsis care
- Leverage the technology within the electronic health record to screen and early detect maternal sepsis cases
- Place sepsis awareness posters in each L&D unit & ED waiting room
- Provide every L&D patient with a sepsis warning sign magnet and information sheet
- Provide post-discharge follow-up calls to patients who screened positive for sepsis
- Continually educate, communicate, and monitor progress

## Measures

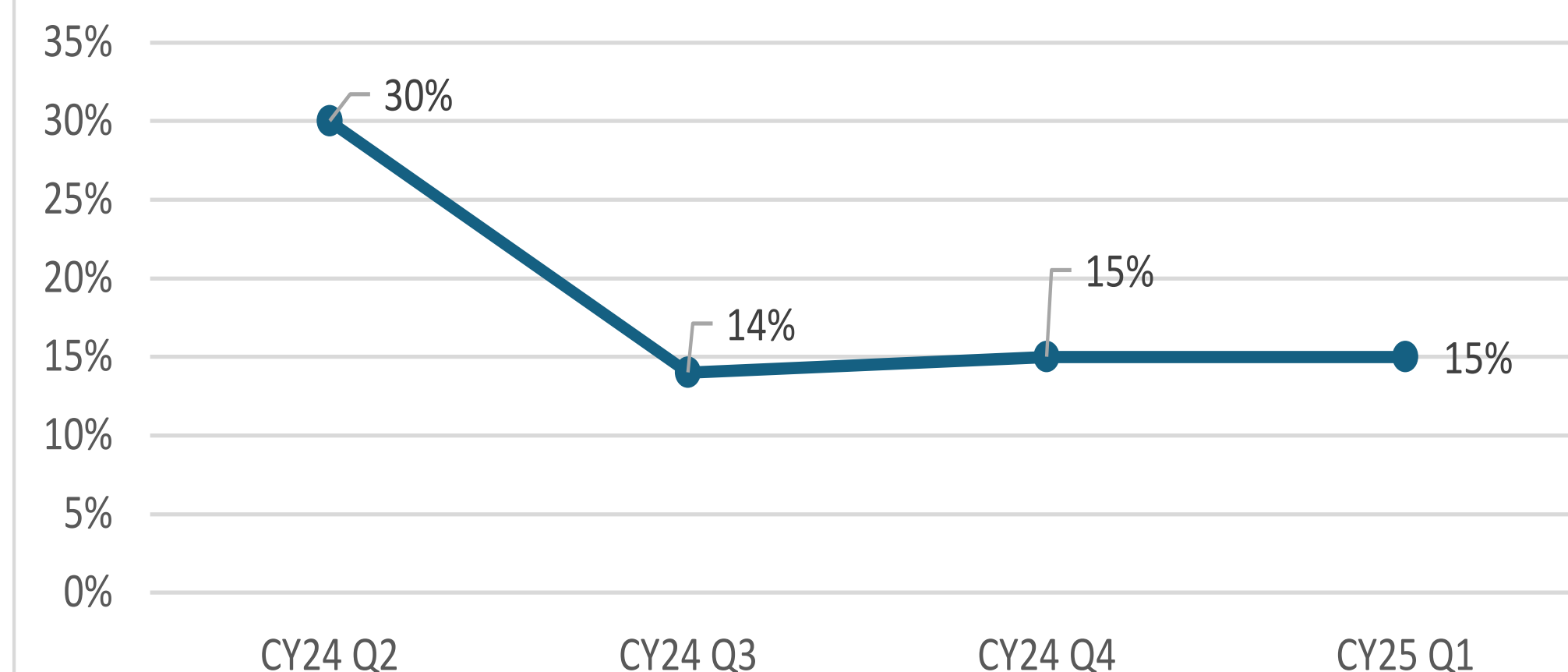
- Outcome Measure: Reduced the number of patients screening positive for maternal sepsis
- Process Measure: Completed chart audits on documentation compliance of the sepsis screening tool. Completed post-discharge follow-up calls to patient who screened positive for sepsis

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

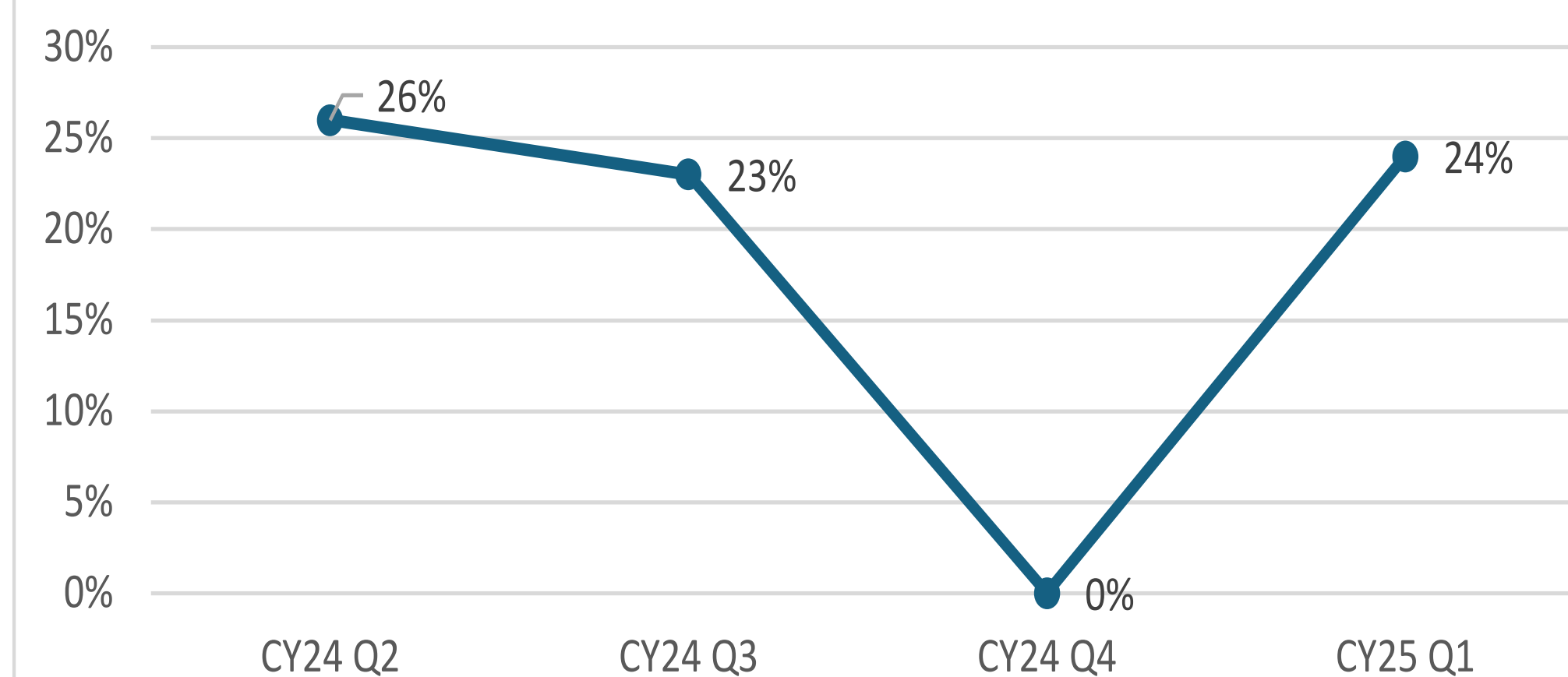
- How do other institutions make sure the tools and education they are using are current best practice?
- How often do other institutions provide staff education for Maternal Sepsis?

## Results

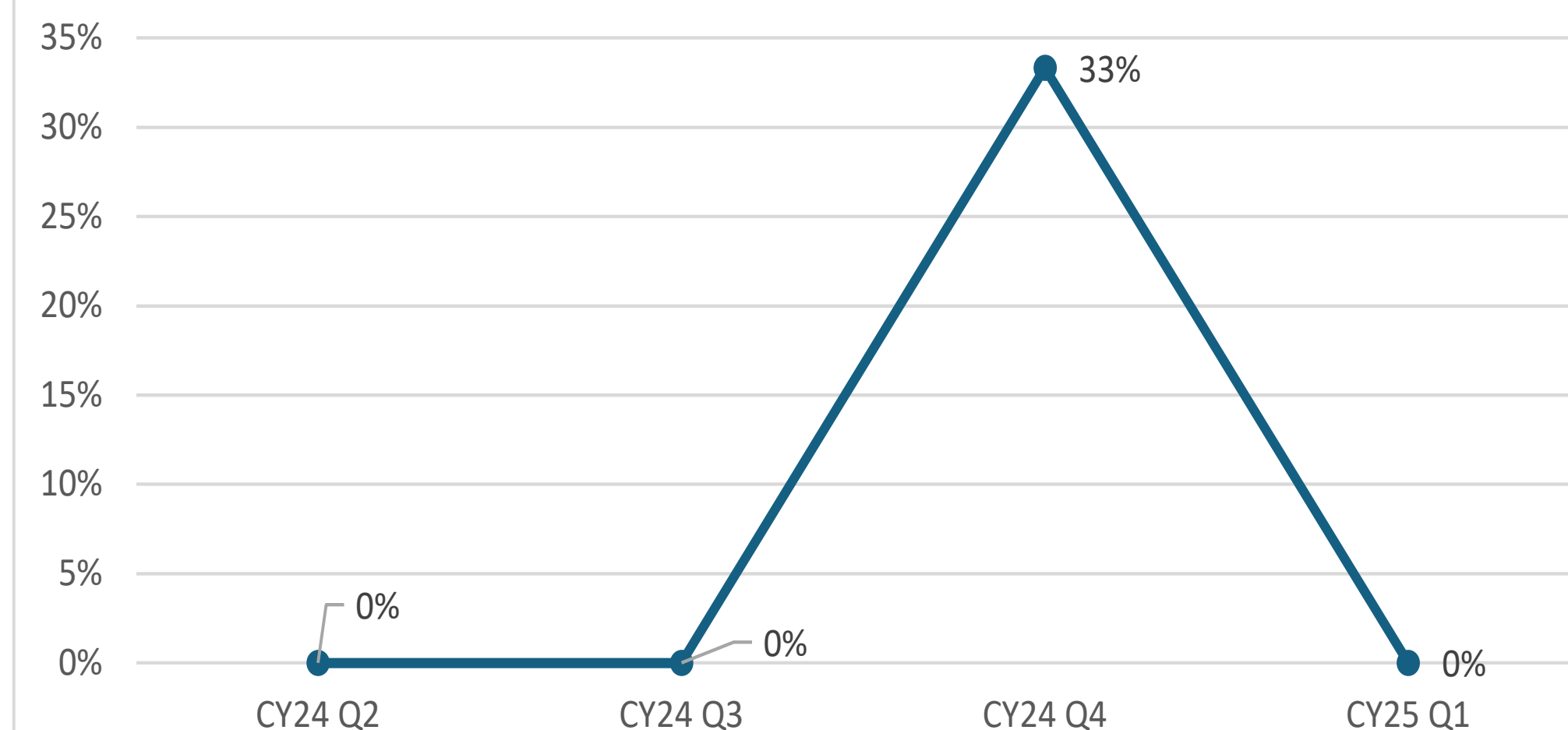
SLRA - Rate of Maternal Sepsis



SLA - Rate of Maternal Sepsis



SLUB - Rate of Maternal Sepsis



**Pregnant now or within the last year?**  
Get medical care right away if you experience any of the following symptoms:

Headache that won't go away or gets worse over time	Dizziness or fainting	Changes in your vision	Fever of 100.4°F or higher
Extreme swelling of your hands or face	Thoughts of harming yourself or your baby	Trouble breathing	Chest pain or fast beating heart
Severe nausea and throwing up	Severe belly pain that doesn't go away	Baby's movement stopping or slowing during pregnancy	Severe swelling, redness or pain of your leg or arm
Vaginal bleeding or fluid leaking during pregnancy	Heavy vaginal bleeding or discharge after pregnancy	Overwhelming tiredness	

These could be signs of very serious complications. If you can't reach a healthcare provider, go to the emergency room. Be sure to tell them you are pregnant or were pregnant within the last year.

Learn more at [cdc.gov/HearHer](https://cdc.gov/HearHer)

**SAVE YOUR LIFE:** Get Care for These POST-BIRTH Warning Signs

Most postpartum patients who give birth recover without problems. But anyone can have complications for up to one year after birth.

Trust your instincts. Always get medical care if you are not feeling well or have questions or concerns.

Call 911 if you have:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pain in chest <input type="checkbox"/> Obstructed breathing or shortness of breath <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures <input type="checkbox"/> Thoughts of hurting yourself or someone else
Call your healthcare provider if you have (you only need one sign):	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding, soaking through one pad/hour, or blood clots, the size of an egg or bigger <input type="checkbox"/> Incision that is not healing <input type="checkbox"/> Red or swollen leg, that is painful or warm to touch <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature of 100.4°F or higher or 96.8°F or lower <input type="checkbox"/> Headache that does not get better, even after taking medicine, or bad headache with vision changes

Tell 911 or your healthcare provider:

I gave birth on \_\_\_\_\_ and I am having \_\_\_\_\_

Scan here to download this handout in multiple languages.

AWHONN | PA-PQC

Poster

Magnet