Turning Red Flags into Green Lights:

Using Positive Learning to Strengthen Early Recognition and Treatment of Paediatric Sepsis

Sheikh Sharifuz Zaman, Su Su Hlaing

Background

Sepsis causes over 2.9 million deaths annually in children under five.
Early recognition & Sepsis Six within 1 hour reduces mortality.
Human factors & fragmented systems hinder timeliness.
Positive outlier analysis strengthens practice.

Aims

- Improve accuracy of red flag sepsis identification.
- Increase timely completion of Sepsis Six.
- Use positive learning to reinforce effective behaviours.
- Foster psychological safety at NGH.

Methodology

- Data from July–Dec 2024 (paediatrics, excl. neonatal).
- Measured high-risk sepsis identification & Sepsis Six.
- Staff forms captured success stories, factors & processes.

Results

My team worked effectively because they are supportive and helpful

Don't ignore your gut-feeling

Listen to parents/carers

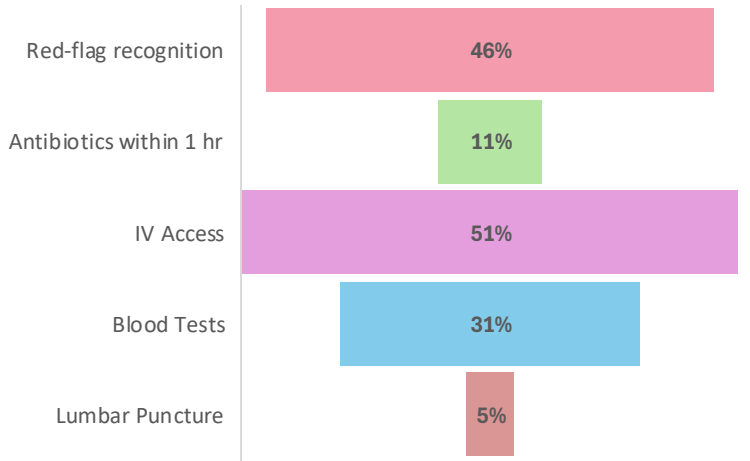
We had a clear leader

My senior was really approachable

Nurses advocate for patients

It's difficult to get equipment

The charts are hard to follow



Conclusions

- Digital Sepsis Six proformas, improved cognitive screening aids and sepsis-prepacks
- Positive learning + reflection fosters excellence.
- Strengthened engagement & collaboration across teams.
- Positive reporting systems boost morale & sustainability.

References

[1] World Health Organization. WHO calls for global action on sepsis, Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 Sep 8
[2] Evans IVR, Phillips GS, Alpern ER, Angus DC, Friedrich ME, Kissoon N, Lemeshow S, Levy MM, Parker MM, Terry K, Watson RS, Weiss SL, Zimmerman J, Seymour CW. Association between the New York sepsis care mandate and in-hospital mortality for pediatric sepsis. JAMA. 2018 Jul 24;320(4):358-67.
[3] Birkeli G, Deilkås EC Tveter, Ballangrud R, Lindahl AK. Implementing Learning from Excellence in a postanaesthesia care unit: a qualitative study of healthcare professionals' experiences after six months. *BMC Health Services Research*. 2025 Apr 2;25(1):493.
[4] National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). *Sepsis: recognition, diagnosis and early management* [NG51]. London: NICE; 2016 [updated 2024 Apr 23]