

Factsheet: Implementation of the 'Sepsis Six' care bundle

All figures per year	England	Per 100,000	Comments
Potential lives saved from intervention	9,904	18.49	Estimate based on Surviving Sepsis Campaign study, Sepsis 6 cohort study and ICU audit
Potential lives saved (under 75)	split not known		
Reduction in potential years of life lost (under 75)			
Cost (£)	-	-	
Cost-saving (£)	-	-	
Net cost (£)	-	309,637	Estimates from Ombudsman report
Strength of evidence	4		

Sepsis is caused when the body's immune system overreacts to infection. It occurs when the body's immune system goes into overdrive, setting off a series of reactions that can lead to widespread inflammation (swelling) and blood clotting. It is an unpredictable condition that can strike at any time. Rapid diagnosis and treatment are critical to survival.¹

It is estimated that sepsis claims 36,800 UK lives annually, and it carries a 35 percent mortality. Sepsis has a 10-fold greater incidence in the over-65s.

Reliable delivery of basic aspects of care early reduces mortality significantly- absolute risk reductions reported range from 16 percent to over 50 percent. The United Kingdom Sepsis Trust has developed the concept of the 'Sepsis Six' - a set of six tasks including oxygen, cultures, antibiotics, fluids, lactate measurement and urine output monitoring- to be instituted within one hour by non-specialist practitioners at the front line. This sub-bundle has been widely adopted by NHS Scotland and as part of the Saving 1000 Lives Campaign in Wales.

Compliance with the Sepsis Six has been shown to reduce the relative risk of death by 46.6 percent, meaning that one additional life is likely to be saved for every 5 care episodes. The delivery of the Sepsis 6 was associated with reduced risk of death from 44 percent in the non-compliant group to just 20 percent. Achieving 80 percent compliance, therefore, would be expected to save an estimated 15,000 lives per year across the NHS.

Further information is available in a briefing prepared for NHS England by the Sepsis Trust:

¹ *Time to act - Severe sepsis: rapid diagnosis and treatment saves lives*, Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman Report for World Sepsis Day, 13 Sept 2013'

- [Sepsis briefing](#)

References to information and resources available from the Sepsis Trust and College of Emergency Medicine are provided below.

http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/22666/FINAL_Sepsis_Report_web.pdf & www.collemergencymed.ac.uk

