

Chapter 923

(Senate Bill 332)

AN ACT concerning

**Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers – Sepsis Protocol  
(Lochlin’s Law)**

FOR the purpose of requiring, on or before a certain date, each hospital and urgent care center in the State to implement a certain protocol for the early recognition and treatment of a patient with sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock; requiring hospitals and urgent care centers to require periodic training in the implementation of the protocol for certain staff; and generally relating to sepsis protocols in hospitals and urgent care centers.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General  
Section 19–310.4  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2023 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Health – General**

**19–310.4.**

**(A) (1) ~~ON SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,~~ ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, EACH HOSPITAL AND URGENT CARE CENTER IN THE STATE SHALL IMPLEMENT AN EVIDENCE–BASED PROTOCOL FOR THE EARLY RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT OF A PATIENT WITH SEPSIS, SEVERE SEPSIS, OR SEPTIC SHOCK THAT IS BASED ON GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF CARE.**

**(2) THE EVIDENCE–BASED PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTED FOR HOSPITALS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SEPSIS GUIDELINES.**

**(3) A HOSPITAL THAT IS A SPECIALTY PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR THE SCREENING AND EARLY RECOGNITION OF A PATIENT WITH SEPSIS, SEVERE SEPSIS, OR SEPTIC SHOCK, AND PROCEDURES TO TRANSFER THE PATIENT TO THE APPROPRIATE SETTING.**

**~~(2) THE PROTOCOL SHALL:~~**

~~(I) INCLUDE COMPONENTS SPECIFIC TO THE IDENTIFICATION, CARE, AND TREATMENT OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN; AND~~

~~(II) FOR A HOSPITAL, CLEARLY IDENTIFY WHERE AND WHEN THE COMPONENTS WILL DIFFER FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN SEEKING TREATMENT IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR AS AN INPATIENT.~~

~~(3) THE COMPONENTS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

~~(I) A PROCESS FOR THE SCREENING AND EARLY RECOGNITION OF A PATIENT WITH SEPSIS, SEVERE SEPSIS, OR SEPTIC SHOCK;~~

~~(II) A PROCESS TO IDENTIFY AND DOCUMENT INDIVIDUALS APPROPRIATE FOR TREATMENT THROUGH SEPSIS PROTOCOLS, INCLUDING EXPLICIT CRITERIA DEFINING WHICH PATIENTS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROTOCOL, SUCH AS A PATIENT WITH CERTAIN CLINICAL CONDITIONS OR A PATIENT WHO HAS CHOSEN PALLIATIVE CARE;~~

~~(III) GUIDELINES FOR HEMODYNAMIC SUPPORT WITH EXPLICIT PHYSIOLOGIC AND TREATMENT GOALS, METHODOLOGY FOR INVASIVE OR NONINVASIVE HEMODYNAMIC MONITORING, AND TIME FRAME GOALS;~~

~~(IV) FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN, GUIDELINES FOR FLUID RESUSCITATION CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT, EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES FOR SEVERE SEPSIS AND SEPTIC SHOCK WITH DEFINED THERAPEUTIC GOALS FOR CHILDREN;~~

~~(V) IDENTIFICATION OF THE INFECTIOUS SOURCE AND DELIVERY OF EARLY BROAD SPECTRUM ANTIBIOTICS WITH TIMELY REEVALUATION TO ADJUST TO NARROW SPECTRUM ANTIBIOTICS TARGETED TO IDENTIFIED INFECTIOUS SOURCES; AND~~

~~(VI) CRITERIA FOR USE, BASED ON ACCEPTED EVIDENCE OF VASOACTIVE AGENTS.~~

(B) A HOSPITAL THAT SUBMITS SEPSIS DATA TO THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES HOSPITAL INPATIENT QUALITY REPORTING PROGRAM IS PRESUMED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

(C) EACH HOSPITAL AND URGENT CARE CENTER SHALL:

(1) REQUIRE PERIODIC TRAINING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEPSIS PROTOCOL REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF WITH DIRECT PATIENT CARE RESPONSIBILITIES AND, AS APPROPRIATE, FOR STAFF WITH INDIRECT PATIENT CARE RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING LABORATORY AND PHARMACY STAFF; AND

(2) ENSURE THAT THE STAFF RECEIVE UPDATED TRAINING IF THE HOSPITAL OR URGENT CARE CENTER MAKES A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TO THE SEPSIS PROTOCOL.

~~(D) EACH HOSPITAL AND URGENT CARE CENTER SHALL COLLECT AND USE QUALITY MEASURES RELATED TO THE RECOGNITION AND TREATMENT OF SEVERE SEPSIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTERNAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.~~

~~(E) ON REQUEST, A HOSPITAL OR AN URGENT CARE CENTER SHALL PROVIDE THE PROTOCOL REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.