

## MEDIA INFORMATION

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Tackling one of the biggest killers



*L – R Winston Alvares, A&E charge nurse; Rotimi Jaiyesimi; Margaret Mary Devaney*

Basildon University Hospital is leading the way in tackling one of the UK's biggest killers.

The hospital has set a target of halving the number of patients who die from sepsis which arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. Sepsis leads to shock

To mark International Sepsis Awareness Day last Saturday (September 13), patient safety champions from the hospital hosted a stand to raise awareness about the condition. Staff from the A&E department were thanked by Clare Panniker, the hospital's chief executive, for their efforts to identify the infection as early as possible – ultimately saving lives.

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Clare said: “Sepsis is going to be one of the next big patient safety priorities for the NHS and it is good to know that we are ahead of the curve. We have got some great initiatives going on and the vast majority of our patients with suspected sepsis are given antibiotics within 24 hours, one of the biggest things we can do to help save lives.”

Sepsis claims 37,000 lives every year in the UK, and costs the NHS £2.5 billion a year.

Sepsis arises when the body’s response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. Sepsis leads to shock, multiple organ failure and death especially if not recognised early and treated promptly.

The vast majority of patients who have sepsis attend hospital via A&E. It is important that A&E staff know how to identify the infection and follow six simple steps to treat it.

Rotimi Jaiyesimi, associate medical director for patient safety at Basildon, said: “It is crucial that we raise awareness of sepsis, educating medical staff about what they should look for and why it’s important that we start investigations and treatment within the first hour following diagnosis.

“This is about people who are susceptible to infection for example those who have had surgery or chemotherapy. If they are feeling unwell, breathing fast, have a high temperature, low blood pressure and are dizzy or dehydrated then they might have sepsis and should be treated quickly.”

Basildon has teamed up with UCLPartners (UCLP), an academic health science network, to arm doctors and nurses with the right skills to better identify patients with sepsis. (the UCLP involvement hasn’t really focused on their awareness but has been more enabling them to use quality improvement methodology).

Margaret Mary Devaney, Improvement Advisor from UCLP, said “Using real time information we have been able to identify nearly 700 patients who have received a ‘bundle of care to manage potential sepsis. The commitment for Basildon staff to drive these improvements has been evident from passionate frontline nurses in A&E through to strategic support from Medical directors and support from the Information team. Delivering these six internationally recognised interventions safely within one hour can increase chance of survival by 50 per cent.”

**ENDS**