

Aotearoa New Zealand National Sepsis Action Plan

A Way Forward



Sepsis
Trust NZ

www.sepsis.org.nz/action

Introduction

Sepsis/mate whakatāoke, also known as blood poisoning/toto pirau, is a life threatening condition which occurs when the body's immune response to infection damages its own tissues and organs.

Sepsis is a preventable illness, an unnecessary drain on resources, and a serious cause of harm to thousands of people in New Zealand every year.

The impact of sepsis extends beyond the health system to include loss of income, and new disabilities which can affect the individual, their whānau, family and carers.

Māori and Pacific people living in New Zealand experience sepsis at least twice as often as non Māori and non Pacific people, and this difference is particularly obvious in childhood. These inequities are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust, particularly as the right to equitable health outcomes for Māori is guaranteed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

World Health Assembly resolution 70.7 2017 urged United Nation member states to develop national policy and processes to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sepsis. A National Sepsis Action Plan is required to achieve this.

With support from the Accident Compensation Commission ACC, and with partners and contributors across the health sector, the Trust started the work needed to deliver a National Sepsis Action Plan for New Zealand in 2019.

At a time of unprecedented change, and in the midst of a global infectious disease pandemic, the adoption and implementation of a National Sepsis Action Plan is even more important than when this work began.

This document outlines the principles and actions underlying a National Sepsis Action Plan for New Zealand, and the steps which we think would bring it to life.

For further information, visit www.sepsis.org.nz/action

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou ka ora ai te iwi

“With your contribution and my contribution there lies wellbeing for the people.”

Principles

HIGH QUALITY EVIDENCE: Good data drives good decisions.

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY: partnerships reflect the needs, interests and contributions of Māori and Pacific people.

VALUE AND EFFICIENCY: where possible, improvements are made within existing investments and resources.

Key Actions

1. Create a National Clinical Network for Sepsis

Clinical networks promote the importance of continuous quality improvement, develop best-practice guidance, and ensure that these are delivered in real-world settings.

2. Increase Public Awareness

Improved outcomes rely on early recognition, but community awareness of sepsis is low and presentation is often delayed.

3. Improve recognition and treatment in all healthcare settings

Recognition and early treatment relies on a confident, educated workforce.

4. Collect data to drive quality improvement

Information gathering can reveal the nature, location and extent of harms caused by infectious disease and sepsis.

5. Support Sepsis Survivors

Recovery from sepsis is often prolonged and difficult. Better resources are needed to support community and primary care teams working with sepsis survivors.

The Way Forward

1. Complete the national stocktake of sepsis quality improvement activity, being undertaken by the Health Quality and Safety Commission
2. Develop a business case with the Accident Compensation Corporation based on the success of the British Columbia Sepsis Network: every \$1 invested returned \$100 in savings
3. Ensure that the early delivery of appropriate antimicrobial therapy is included as an appropriate goal of national antimicrobial stewardship efforts
4. Continue to implement and evaluate the “Raise the Flag” programme (a sepsis quality improvement programme developed for New Zealand healthcare settings)
5. Work with health system partners to integrate sepsis data into existing reporting systems and dashboards
6. Prioritise the National Sepsis Action Plan as a pro-equity response arising from National Health Reforms