



April 14, 2021

Ms. Liz Richter
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Dear Administrator Richter,

Sepsis Alliance, the nation's first and leading sepsis organization, strongly endorses the ratification of the MCIT rule. The mission of Sepsis Alliance is to save lives and reduce suffering by improving sepsis awareness and care. We believe more lives and limbs can be saved by creating greater access to new innovations in sepsis detection, diagnosis, and care. Rapid identification and treatment of sepsis saves lives.

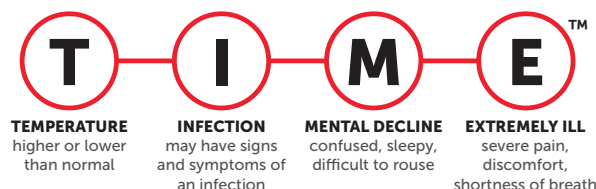
Some facts about sepsis:

- Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection that can lead to tissue damage, amputations, organ failure, and death.
- More than 1.7 million people are diagnosed with sepsis each year in the U.S. with more than 270,000 dying.
- Over 50% of survivors experiencing post-sepsis syndrome and other lingering effects, including amputations.
- Sepsis is the leading cause of death in US hospitals
- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. Costs for acute sepsis hospitalization and skilled nursing are estimated to be \$62 billion annually.

Healthcare providers often cannot access new innovations to treat their patients because of the financial impact those decisions have. Delays in achieving reimbursement status and difficulties financing new technology development lead to delays in getting life-saving technology to patients. By ratifying the MCIT rule, you are opening the doors to innovation, early recognition, and life-saving treatment. The acceleration of healthcare innovation will have a deep, meaningful impact on patients, their families, and the healthcare system as a whole. The economic burden of sepsis, and the human cost, can be greatly reduced by creating greater access to new innovation, including diagnostics.

In summary, Sepsis Alliance enthusiastically endorses the ratification of the MCIT rule ensuring sepsis patients can access innovations that will improve outcomes.

When it comes to sepsis, remember
IT'S ABOUT TIME™. Watch for:



If you experience a combination of these symptoms: seek urgent medical care, call 911, or go to the hospital with an advocate. Ask: "Could it be sepsis?"

Thomas Heymann
President & CEO
Sepsis Alliance

Karin Molander, MD, FACEP
Board Chair
Sepsis Alliance

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