

# WellStar Paulding Hospital realizes \$323,809 by improving sepsis outcomes

## WellStar Health System Marietta, GA

WellStar Health System, the largest health system in Georgia, is known nationally for its innovative care models, focused on improving quality and access to healthcare. Staying ahead of the curve in technology has enabled WellStar to be leaders in both the diagnosis and treatment of an extensive array of health conditions. Serving a diverse population, WellStar consistently looks at total patient wellness and works to ensure that all systems support that focus.

*“We gained knowledge from our participation in Vizient’s Sepsis Collaborative that we could apply to our sepsis program at our hospital. We also benefited from regional support from Vizient Southern States who helped us stay on track with our project.”*

**Emily Bradshaw, BSN, RN, CCRN**  
Professional Nursing Educator,  
Critical Care  
WellStar Health System

## Challenge

Severe sepsis and septic shock are leading contributors to mortality and morbidity in the hospital setting, with an estimated mortality rate of 20–30 percent. Early goal-directed therapy improves patient outcomes, while also decreasing mortality, average length of stay (ALOS) and costs associated with admission. At WellStar Paulding Hospital, their previous compliance with three and six-hour bundles was at zero percent. They were also lacking 24-hour intensivist coverage.

## Solution

WellStar Paulding identified opportunities to improve compliance with sepsis and best practice protocols to improve outcomes and decrease overall cost of care. This included revamping interdisciplinary education and standardization of work; communication and compliance with an ED CODE SEPSIS tool; and establishing goals of care at “Time Zero.” Additionally, as a participant in the Vizient Sepsis Collaborative, they were able to meet and discuss with other hospitals to learn what was working or not working at other facilities and apply that information to their program.

## Results

By enforcing 200 percent accountability and order set standardization, the hospital saw mortality rates decrease by 63 percent and a septic shock ALOS cost avoidance of \$323,809 over the first six months of 2017. Since then, they have sustained their success and added a sepsis coordinator and a 24/7 intensivist.

WellStar Paulding learned that their multidisciplinary focus on best practices created a culture of consistent awareness and improvement of care, which has promoted optimal patient outcomes.



For more information about our performance improvement collaboratives, contact us today at [info@vizientsouthernstates.com](mailto:info@vizientsouthernstates.com) or (770) 850-7400.

Vizient Southern States is a membership alliance for not-for-profit health care providers that exists to ensure its members deliver high quality, cost-effective care by connecting them with the knowledge, solutions and expertise that accelerate performance.