ICD-10-CM Code for Encounter for Sepsis Aftercare

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Why is sepsis aftercare necessary?

- Annually, of 1.4 million sepsis survivors, more than 40% transition to post-acute care (e.g., home health, skilled nursing care facilities)[3,4,5]
- Sepsis survivors have a high readmission risk
  - > 40% of sepsis survivors are readmitted to the hospital within 90 days[4]
  - Of those readmitted within 30 days, one-third do so within 7 days[4,6]
- Sepsis survivors need aftercare due to risk of new or recurrent infections, organ dysfunction, or to rehabilitate new impairments

Why is sepsis aftercare necessary? (continued)

- Evidence exists that can benefit sepsis survivors, yet challenges exist to identify this population and deliver timely care
- Studies demonstrated timely home health nursing visits & outpatient follow-up within 7 days after hospital discharge significantly reduced readmissions
  - 8 percentage points reduction (40% relative reduction) in patients with heart failure[7]
  - 7 percentage points reduction (41% relative reduction) in sepsis survivors[1]

What is the problem?

- Does post-acute care know that the patient is a sepsis survivor?
  - Currently, there is no ICD-10 code for post-sepsis condition
- Bowles et al. (2020)[6] studied 165,000 sepsis survivors who transitioned from acute care to home health care
  - Only 7-10% were coded with sepsis-related diagnostic codes in home health records
  - Most common diagnoses were pneumonia, “other aftercare,” heart failure, or UTI
- If sepsis survivors are invisible to post-acute and ambulatory care
  - The patients will not receive the necessary sepsis-focused care for optimal recovery and prevention of adverse health-related events

Benefits with having a specific code[3]

- Increase the awareness among health care providers of the risks of sepsis survivors
- Improve adherence to best practice recommendations for the management of long-term outcomes of sepsis
- Optimize care coordination and the delivery of post-acute and ambulatory care services aligned with sepsis survivors' needs
- Catalyze necessary policy changes to ensure improved outcomes of sepsis survivors
- Promote epidemiological monitoring to further scientific advances in the management of long-term sequelae of sepsis

Proposal: Encounter for Sepsis Aftercare

- The new code will enable immediate identification of sepsis survivors and timely follow-ups
- Assessment and follow-up for physical, cognitive, and emotional problems are recommended best practices by the Society of Critical Care Medicine

Letters of support from major organizations

- Critical Care Societies Collaborative
  - American College of Chest Physicians
  - American Thoracic Society
  - Society of Critical Care Medicine
  - American Association of Critical Care Nurses
- Sepsis Alliance
- Research Institute of Home Health
- American Geriatrics Society
- American College of Physicians
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- The Gerontological Society of America
- National Association for Home Care & Hospice
- American Medical Directors Association - The Society For Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- VNS Health
- Salem Health

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Thank you!

Questions or comments?

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