

PEDIATRIC

SEPSIS PROGRAM



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## WHAT IS SEPSIS?

Sepsis occurs when the body develops an overwhelming response to an infection — such as pneumonia or a urinary tract infection — that causes organ failure. Almost any infection, if it is not stopped early, can cause sepsis.

The signs and symptoms of sepsis can include:

- Fever, shivering or feeling very cold
- High heart rate
- Breathing fast or feeling short of breath
- Confusion, disorientation and lethargy
- Cold or pale hands and feet

In the mid-1900s, more than 90 percent of patients who developed sepsis died. With improvements in care, most patients who develop sepsis now survive. However, about one in 10 children with severe sepsis still die, and many survivors go on to have longer-term problems with attention, school work and physical activity, as well as a higher risk of recurrent infections and hospital readmission.

## OUR SPECIALIZED PROGRAM

The Pediatric Sepsis Program at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is a center of expertise for pediatric sepsis. We provide infants, children and adolescents with sepsis top-notch clinical care and cutting-edge research opportunities in one place.

Our multidisciplinary team is made up of specialists in pediatrics, surgery, oncology, cardiology, emergency medicine, and critical care, with contributions from physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, bioinformaticians, and quality improvement specialists, among others. Every day, we’re searching for new ways to treat sepsis, offering hope for a better future for children and their families. Our team is helping to lead the international medical and scientific communities in the search for answers to key questions, including:

- What causes sepsis?
- What are the best methods for early detection of sepsis?
- What are the most effective therapies to reverse the effects of sepsis?

Our vision is that every child with a severe infection will be evaluated for sepsis and treated with the highest-quality medical and surgical care to reduce — and eventually eliminate — death and disability caused by sepsis.

**LEARN MORE:**  
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