

THE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting healthcare-related educational topics
that matter to you

September 2025



The Patient Education and Empowerment Department creates resources that address a range of topics from medical debt to insurance access and disability benefits. The resources we produce are reflective of real-world experiences that meet the needs of the patients PAF serves.

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Recognizing Sepsis Awareness Month and An Important Partnership



September is more than just the start of a new school year or the unofficial beginning of autumn. It's also Sepsis Awareness Month, a powerful opportunity to educate ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities about this life-threatening medical emergency.

Sepsis isn't a disease itself; it's the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to an infection. Think of it as a domino effect. When an infection, from something as simple as a cut or a urinary tract infection to more serious cases like pneumonia, gets out of control, the body's immune system goes into overdrive. Instead of fighting just the infection, it begins to attack its own tissues and organs. This can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and even death.

Sepsis is a medical emergency that requires immediate medical attention. The sooner it's recognized and treated, the better the chances of survival and recovery.

Sepsis affects an estimated 1.7 million adults in the U.S. each year.

More than 350,000 adults die from sepsis each year in the U.S. It is one of the leading causes of death in hospitals and a significant driver of healthcare costs.

Sepsis is a serious threat, but with increased awareness and rapid action, we can dramatically improve outcomes.

Patient Advocate Foundation is committed to helping patients affected by Sepsis. Since 2016, we have maintained a partnership with [Begin Again Foundation](#) focused on providing financial and case management support to individuals and families affected by specific serious health conditions.

The partnership is built on our shared goal of helping patients who have been diagnosed with Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS), Sepsis, and/or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). Together, we operate:

- **Begin Again Foundation Financial Aid Fund**
- **Begin Again Foundation Southeastern Virginia Financial Aid**

Fund

- **Begin Again Foundation Bereavement Fund**
- **Begin Again Foundation Amputee Fund**

These programs provide one-time grants to eligible patients in active treatment or who have been in active treatment within the past six months. To learn more about these programs and their eligibility, please [visit us](#).

PAF also provides its expertise in case management to support Begin Again Foundation's programs. This involves helping patients navigate complex healthcare systems, resolve issues related to insurance, and find additional resources.

Please visit [Begin Again Foundation](#) to learn more about the amazing work they are doing to bring awareness to the dangers of Sepsis as well as support patient and families affected by Sepsis.