

ESNO Position Statement on Global Sepsis Day

Brussels: 13-09-2023



"Elevating Sepsis Awareness and Empowering Nurses: A Call to Action"

Sepsis is a global health problem and a major cause of death worldwide. It ranks as the primary cause of preventable death worldwide, but only if we raise awareness of sepsis, its early symptoms, and take prompt actions such as treating infections early and maintaining good hygiene both at home and in healthcare settings. Sepsis occurs when the immune system reacts excessively to an infection, leading to damage to the body's own tissues and organs. Patients with sepsis can deteriorate rapidly, and their condition can progress to organ failure and death without timely detection and appropriate interventions.

In 2017, when the World Health Assembly adopted the Resolution on Sepsis¹, all member states of the United Nations were called upon to implement national action plans aimed at improving the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sepsis.

Nurses across various specialties still face numerous challenges when dealing with sepsis and responding to sepsis patients. These challenges include excessive workloads, insufficient resources, a lack of knowledge and competence, and institutional culture and protocols.

On September 13th 2023, World Sepsis Day, healthcare professionals worldwide organize a wide range of educational activities, health promotion initiatives, and sepsis prevention campaigns.

Considering the aging population, we must emphasize the relevance of sepsis cases in nursing homes, where prevention and early detection are crucial². This is especially pertinent considering limited access to education in such settings. Within this context, there is a genuine threat of delayed diagnoses or treatment of bedsores that may progress to sepsis, failure to recognize or address infections leading to sepsis, and neglect of residents' healthcare needs to prevent sepsis³.

In this message, ESNO stresses the importance of infection prevention, with education, certification of training achievements, and authority for nurses across all specialties, with a particular emphasis on those in elderly care and nursing homes. These nurses should be recognized for their expertise and authorized to follow guidelines and protocols accordingly.

The European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) is a non-profit organisation, and the goal is to facilitate and provide an effective framework for communication and co-operation between the European Specialist Nurses Organisations and its constituent members. ESNO represents the mutual interests and benefits of these organisations to the wider European community in the interest of the public health. Members of ESNO consist of individual European specialist nurses organizations. ESNO is registered with the European Commission Transparency Register: 70183498905-52, Registration Chamber of Commerce Netherlands number: 32141241 and with ANBI status under RISN number: 8200 05 745 www.esno.org – secretariat@esno.org

¹ <https://www.global-sepsis-alliance.org/news/2017/5/26/wha-adopts-resolution-on-sepsis>

² <https://www.sepsis.org/sepsisand/sepsis-long-term-care/>

³ <https://www.nursinghomeabusecenter.com/nursing-home-neglect/sepsis/>