A nurse practitioner sepsis screening team was able to significantly reduce sepsis related ICU admissions and decreased preventable sepsis mortality in our academic medical center. The team was introduced to address the growing problem of sepsis, specifically amongst the transfer population to our acute care units. The NPs evaluate acute care transfers and perform advanced assessments. Combining the use of a modified SIRS screening tool and advanced training and assessment skills, the NPs determine when implementation of the hospital approved sepsis treatment protocol is necessary.

Sepsis is a complex syndrome that is at times difficult to define, diagnose, and treat. The care and complications related to sepsis and preventable sepsis mortality have become a considerable burden to healthcare providers, including large academic medical centers. The United States is reported to have approximately 750,000 cases of sepsis annually, resulting in 215,000 deaths. Sepsis is said to be the tenth leading cause of death in the US, and the leading cause of death in non-coronary intensive care units with an estimated annual cost of seventeen billion dollars. Despite the advances in medicine, sepsis is projected to be a continued challenge in acute care hospitals.

Based on the astounding success of the NP sepsis screening team, the organization plans to expand the screening to other high risk populations and eventually implement a hospital wide initiative.