

Maternal Sepsis Week: May 10 – May 16

Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Sepsis

What is maternal sepsis?

It is a life-threatening condition defined as organ dysfunction resulting from infection during pregnancy, childbirth, post-abortion, miscarriage, or postpartum period.

Maternal sepsis causes 261,000 maternal deaths every year

Early recognition of sepsis is key to saving mothers' lives:



There is greater risk of developing maternal sepsis if a mother has:

- Diabetes
- Mastitis (inflammation and/or infection in the breast tissue)
- Viral or bacterial infection, such as a UTI

***Obesity may also increase your risk of developing sepsis.**

- A cesarean section
- Prolonged or obstructed labor
- Premature ruptured membranes
- Cerclage (cervical stitch)
- Placental abruption (placenta breaks away from the uterine wall)
- Emergency surgery
- Miscarriage, or induced abortion
- Limited or no prenatal care