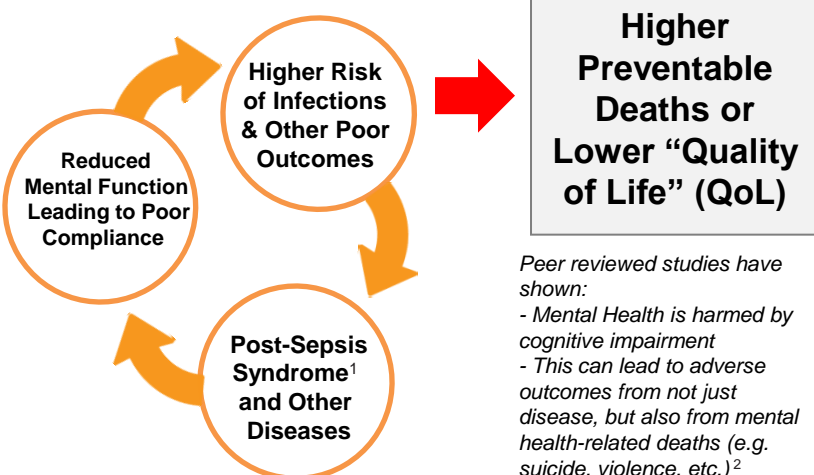


# Public Safety Initiative for Preventing Deaths from Cognitive Impairment

An Initiative for The Public Good by The High Reliability Organization Council

## THE CHALLENGE

The vicious cycle of disease impairing cognition, reducing compliance by patient and leading to task failures that result in preventable deaths. One example is for Sepsis:



Peer reviewed studies have shown:

- Mental Health is harmed by cognitive impairment
- This can lead to adverse outcomes from not just disease, but also from mental health-related deaths (e.g. suicide, violence, etc.)<sup>2</sup>

This research will have multiple benefits:

1. Understand how sepsis and other diseases (e.g. heart failure<sup>3</sup>) can impair cognitive function, both short-term and long-term
2. Show when cognitive impairments lead to likely poor compliance
3. Find solutions to address this poor compliance by patients and caregivers to reduce risk of disease relapse, or other effects such as mental health issues affecting safety and QoL of patient and others

Sources: 1. [http://www.sepsis.org/sepsis/post\\_sepsis\\_syndrome/](http://www.sepsis.org/sepsis/post_sepsis_syndrome/)  
2. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2671399/>  
3. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2684513/>

## What Is The High Reliability Organization Council (HROC)?

The HRO Council arose out of research with the U.S. Air Force which showed that the leading cause of poor reliability in teams was Task Saturation (i.e. too much to do in too little time, so tasks are missed). This led to the creation of the Military Acuity Model approach, which won the Military Health System Innovation Award in 2013.

Even though an HRO is good for patient safety, it is too often not cost-effective, because it relies on more and more checklists coupled with unsustainable overachieving – which leads to Task Saturation and dropping of key checklist tasks.

In the current landscape of rising demands with shrinking budgets, we must find a way to improve *both* public safety and patient safety.

Reducing Task Saturation is now a priority for leading military and civilian facilities. HROC is a team of experts synergizing efforts to show how to reduce preventable problems cost-effectively.

## We Seek To Lead This Effort And Do Our Part

### COMBATING TASK SATURATION HELPS DELIVERY SCIENCE IMPROVE

Combating TASK SATURATION is the key to increased reliability and preparedness. In studies utilizing new methods to address Task Saturation, reductions in preventable deaths and other preventable problems (e.g. readmissions) in key cohorts dropped by over 40%.

**Achievable Goal: 20% Reduction in Preventable Deaths**

### WHO DOES THIS BENEFIT?

- Hospital Patient Lives Saved
- Our Military and Veterans
- Ultimately, All of Us



### WEBINARS WE ARE SHARING

High Reliability in Healthcare:  
How Do We Get There?

An Introduction to  
The Military Acuity Model (MAM)



Focus on less.  
Achieve more.™

Contact Us: Stephanie Poe, PhD | [spoe@thinkhro.org](mailto:spoe@thinkhro.org) | (412) 223-7538