

## **2026 Setting the Pace**

### **Speaker Information Form**



**Emily Leboff, MSN, RN, CEN, TCRN  
BSN, RN**



**Colleen Clifford,**

Emily Leboff is a nurse manager with over 13 years of experience, Emily brings extensive frontline and leadership experience in emergency care. She began her career in home care before transitioning into acute care as a Telemetry and Emergency Department nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital, where she practiced for two years. For the past 11 years, Emily has been an integral part of Mount Sinai South Nassau, serving in progressive roles including staff ED nurse, Assistant Nurse Manager for four years, and emergency department educator for one year. For more than four years, she has served as emergency department nurse manager, now senior nurse manager, leading clinical operations, staff development, and quality initiatives. Her diverse background across bedside care, education, and leadership provides a well-rounded and practical perspective on emergency nursing and healthcare leadership.

Colleen Clifford is an Emergency Department Quality Operations Coordinator with a strong foundation as an emergency department-trained registered nurse. She brings extensive experience in process improvement and quality initiatives focused on enhancing patient care and operational efficiency. Colleen collaborates closely with clinical and operational teams to identify opportunities for improvement and implement evidence-based solutions. Her work is driven by a commitment to patient safety, high-quality outcomes, and continuous improvement in emergency care settings.

### **Precision in the Pressure: Redesigning Code Sepsis**

The Emergency Department redesigned its Code Sepsis protocol to improve early recognition and treatment by replacing a confusing two-pathway algorithm with a single, standardized pathway aligned with the health system. The prior approach led to inconsistent application and delays in care, prompting an interdisciplinary effort to simplify activation criteria, clarify clinical responsibilities, and integrate decision support

within the electronic health record. Implementation was supported by focused staff education and real-time feedback, resulting in improved adherence to key protocol elements, including timely lactate collection, blood cultures, and antibiotic administration within 30 minutes of recognition. Post-implementation outcomes demonstrated increased staff confidence, reduced time to intervention, and improved sepsis-related mortality, highlighting the value of streamlined, system-wide protocols.

### **Learning Objectives.**

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify common barriers to effective sepsis recognition and response in the Emergency Department.
- Describe the process of redesigning a complex clinical protocol into a simplified, standardized pathway.
- Discuss strategies for implementing protocol changes using interdisciplinary collaboration, staff education, and clinical decision support.
- Evaluate the impact of standardized sepsis pathways on protocol adherence, time to treatment, and patient outcomes.

### **References.**

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