

# What is Sepsis?

Sepsis is the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death.





**Sepsis can occur even after a minor infection.** 

**Sepsis is difficult to diagnose and treat.** 

**Sepsis is dangerous and can be DEADLY.** 

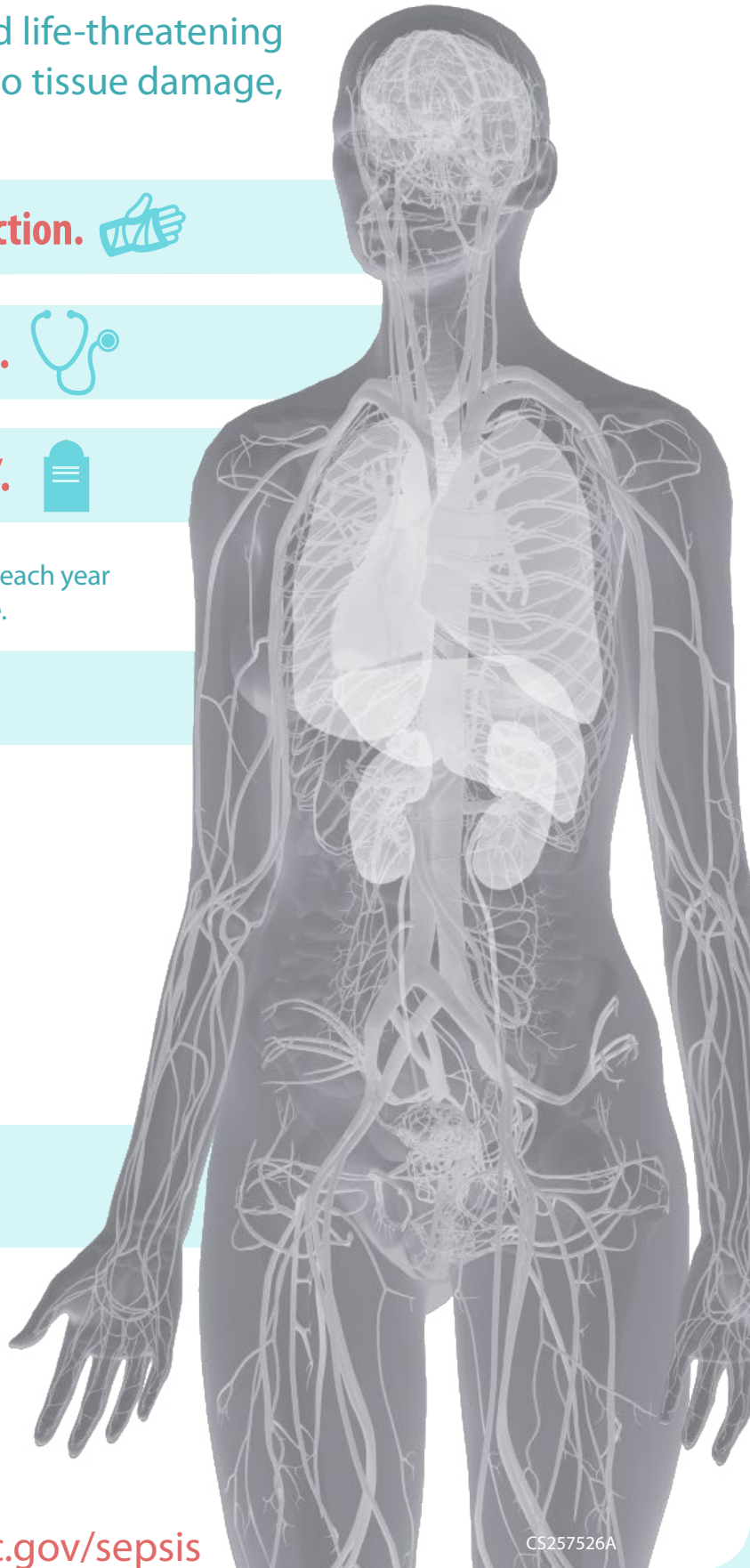
Over **1 million** cases of sepsis occur each year and up to half of the people who get sepsis will die.

## What can you do to PREVENT sepsis?

- 1** Get **vaccinated** 
- 2** **Prevent infections** that can lead to sepsis by:
  - **Cleaning** scrapes and wounds 
  - Practicing good **hygiene** (e.g., hand washing, bathing regularly) 
- 3** If you have an infection, **look for signs like:** fever, chills, rapid breathing and heartrate, rash, confusion, and disorientation. 

## What should you do if you think you have sepsis?

Seek medical treatment if you have signs of sepsis following an infection.



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
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[www.cdc.gov/sepsis](http://www.cdc.gov/sepsis)

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