

Improving Outcomes for Patients with Sepsis: CDC's Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements and Best Practices in Sepsis Care

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- Sepsis Alliance Board of Directors
- Nursing Advisory Board- Baxter
- Society of Critical Care Medicine—ICU Liberation Course Director/Instructor

Objectives



Review the seven core elements in CDC's Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements and their importance in achieving optimal sepsis outcomes



Identify resources and tools to assist with implementation of each of the elements.



Review key sepsis management best practices

Sepsis is a Public Health Problem



Sepsis is common

1.7 million hospitalizations, more than heart attack and stroke combined¹

2.5 million hospitalizations related to sepsis in 2021 (AHRQ report to Congress, 2024)

Sepsis is deadly

350,000 deaths, 33-50% of all hospital deaths^{2,3}

Sepsis is costly

Most costly cause of hospitalization (\$38 billion in 2020; 52 billion in 2021)

Sepsis is a Major Driver of Morbidity



3-fold increase in
mod-severe
cognitive impairment¹



1-2 new
functional
limitations
(ADLs)¹



Increased risk for re-
hospitalization²
(recurrent infection/sepsis,
acute kidney injury, and
aspiration)



Half with
psychological
symptoms³



Post-acute
mortality⁴

Only 55% of previously employed patients return to work within 6 months⁵

1-Iwashyna, et al. *JAMA*, 2010.

2-Prescott, et al. *JAMA*, 2015.

3-Bienvenu, et al. *Intensive Care Med*, 2018.

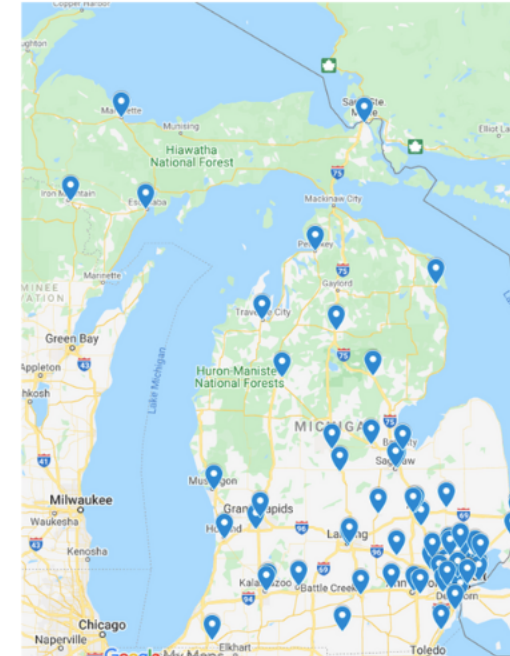
4-Prescott, et al. *BMJ*, 2016.

5-McPeake, et al. *AnnalsATS*, 2019.



VALUED PARTNER

- One of 24 Collaborative Quality Initiatives in Michigan
- Funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- Coordinating Center at Michigan Medicine
- Up to 2 Data Abstractors at each hospital (69 total sites)
- Eligible Michigan hospitals are required to participate
- Participating hospitals are of diverse sizes and types
- Participants at each site are multi-disciplinary



HMS GOAL

Improve the quality of care for hospitalized medical patients who are at risk for adverse events

HOW DOES HMS IMPROVE CARE?

Robust data reporting



Best-practice sharing



Facilitated implementation of
best practices



Pay-for-Performance &
Value Based Reimbursement



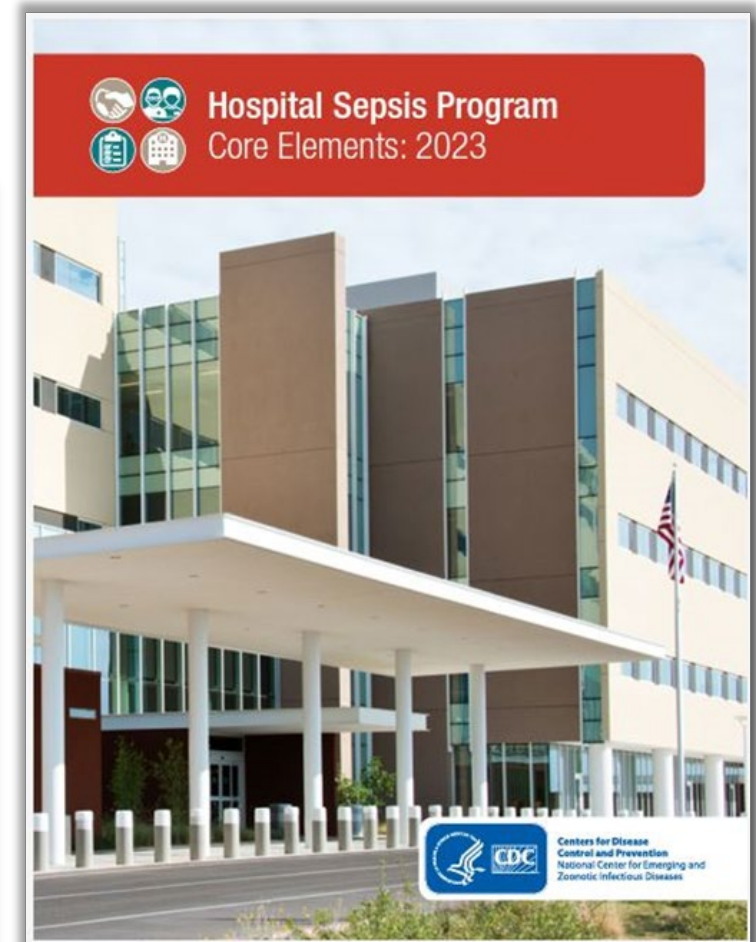
**MICHIGAN
HOSPITAL
MEDICINE SAFETY
CONSORTIUM**

CDC Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements



The CDC Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements were launched in 2023 and modeled after the CDC's successful Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship work.

The Core Elements provide a “managers guide” for establishing and running an effective program to monitor and optimize hospital sepsis care.



Elements within the Program



Hospital Leadership Commitment



Identify an Executive Sponsor: Appoint a senior administrator (CCO, CMO, CNO) to ensure program has resources and support.



Assign Sepsis Program Leaders: Provide dedicated time. Amount of time required based on type and size of hospital.



Identify sepsis as a hospital priority and communicate this to hospital staff.



Provide resources: IT, data analytics, etc



Ensure relevant staff from key clinical groups and departments have **sufficient time to help with sepsis.**

Accountability



1-2 Co-Leaders for Sepsis Program: Strongly recommend a physician and a nurse.



Set concrete goals to improve processes and outcomes, monitor progress toward the goal, and revise as needed.



Identify unit-level physician and nurse champions.



Report sepsis program activities and outcomes to senior hospital leadership regularly.

Multi-Professional Expertise



Collaborate across hospital locations: Clinicians and leaders from the ED, inpatient wards, and ICUs should be fully engaged in sepsis program activities.



Engage multi-professional experts: Antimicrobial stewardship, critical care, emergency medicine, hospital medicine, infectious disease, nursing, pharmacy, and social work.



Engage relevant support services: IT, data management and analytics, QI and patient safety.

Elements within the Program

Action



Implement a standardized process for **sepsis screening**.

Develop and maintain a hospital guideline or **standardized care pathway for management of sepsis**.

Create hospital **order sets** for management of sepsis.

Develop structures and processes to **facilitate prompt antimicrobial delivery**.

Develop **effective hospital hand-offs** for sepsis patients.

Tracking



Categories of tracking include:

- Sepsis epidemiology metrics
- Sepsis management metrics
- Sepsis outcomes metrics
- Progress towards achieving sepsis program goals
- Use, usability, and impact of sepsis program tools
- Chart reviews of sepsis hospitalizations
- Chart reviews for clinician feedback and education

Reporting



Reporting sepsis treatment and outcomes to relevant staff can help maintain staff engagement and motivate behavior change.

Regular reports to hospital, unit, and clinical leaders at routine intervals with trends over time and benchmarking.

Additional reporting: focused feedback to individual clinicians, live sepsis dashboard.

Education



Include sepsis-specific training in the onboarding process for healthcare staff.

Provide annual sepsis education to staff.

Provide written and verbal education on sepsis to patients, families, and caregivers prior to discharge.

Post information on sepsis recognition, hold **grand rounds**, include sepsis training in RN **annual competencies**.

Best Practices in Sepsis Management



SEP-1: Early Management Bundle



To be completed within 3 hours of time of presentation *

1. Measure lactate level
2. Obtain blood cultures prior to administration of antibiotics
3. Administer broad spectrum antibiotics
4. Administer 30ml/kg crystalloid for hypotension or lactate ≥ 4 mmol/L

* *Time of presentation* is defined as the time of earliest chart annotation consistent with all elements of severe sepsis or septic shock, as ascertained through chart review.

SEP-1: Continued



TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN **6 HOURS** OF TIME OF PRESENTATION:

5. Apply vasopressors (for hypotension that does not respond to initial fluid resuscitation) to maintain a mean arterial pressure (MAP) ≥ 65 mmHg
6. In the event of persistent hypotension after initial fluid administration (MAP < 65 mm Hg) or if initial lactate was ≥ 4 mmol/L, re-assess volume status and tissue perfusion and document findings according to table 1.
7. Re-measure lactate if initial lactate elevated.

Guideline Recommendations and Newer Data



Antimicrobial timing

Fluid resuscitation
volume

Early

Ongoing

Fluid type



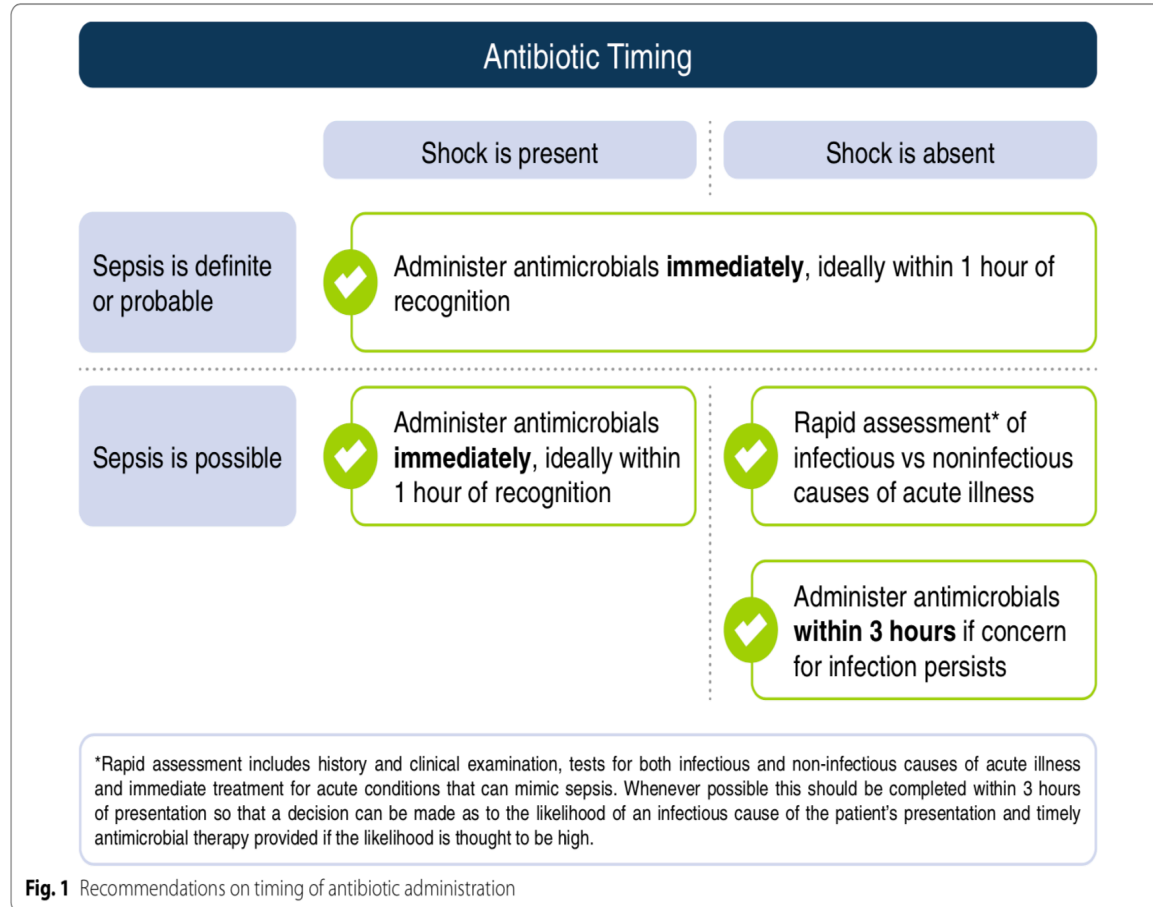
2021 SSC Guideline rec(s)

Background

Newer literature

Impact on Guidelines

Antimicrobial Timing



Background for Recommendations



Time-to-antibiotics matters, particularly for patients in shock



Diagnostic uncertainty is common in practice (~22% of sepsis diagnoses overturned)

For adults with possible septic shock or a high likelihood for sepsis, we recommend administering antimicrobials immediately, ideally within 1 hour of recognition.

Quality of evidence: Low

Infection Strong Time to Antimicrobials

Surviving Sepsis
Campaign

Seymour, et al. *NEJM*. 2017.
Liu, et al. *AJRCCM*. 2017.
Peltan, et al. *Chest*. 2019.
Pak, et al. *CID*. 2023.
Hechtman, et al. *AJRCCM*. 2024.
Klouwenberg, et al. *Critical Care*, 2015.
Taylor, et al. *AnnalsATS*, 2020.
Hooper, et al. *Clinical infectious Dis.*, 2023

Temporal Trends in Antimicrobial Prescribing During Hospitalization for Potential Infection and Sepsis

Hallie C. Prescott, MD, MSc; Sarah Seelye, PhD; Xiao Qing Wang, MPH; Cainnear K. Hogan, MSW; Joshua T. Smith, PharmD; Patricia Kipnis, PhD; Fernando Barreda, MHA; John P. Donnelly, PhD; Jason M. Pogue, PharmD; Theodore J. Iwashyna, MD, PhD; Makoto M. Jones, MD, MS; Vincent X. Liu, MD, MS

Supplemental content

IMPORTANCE Some experts have cautioned that national and health system emphasis on rapid administration of antimicrobials for sepsis may increase overall antimicrobial use even among patients without sepsis.

OBJECTIVE To assess whether temporal changes in antimicrobial timing for sepsis are associated with increasing antimicrobial use, days of therapy, or broadness of antimicrobial coverage among all hospitalized patients at risk for sepsis.

DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS This is an observational cohort study of hospitalized patients at 152 hospitals in 2 health care systems during 2013 to 2018, admitted via the emergency department with 2 or more systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) criteria. Data analysis was performed from June 10, 2021, to March 22, 2022.

EXPOSURES Hospital-level temporal trends in time to first antimicrobial administration.

OUTCOMES Antimicrobial outcomes included antimicrobial use, days of therapy, and broadness of antibacterial coverage. Clinical outcomes included in-hospital mortality, 30-day mortality, length of hospitalization, and new multidrug-resistant (MDR) organism culture positivity.

RESULTS Among 1559 523 patients admitted to the hospital via the emergency department with 2 or more SIRS criteria (1 269 998 male patients [81.4%]; median [IQR] age, 67 [59-77] years), 273 255 (17.5%) met objective criteria for sepsis. In multivariable models adjusted for patient characteristics, the adjusted median (IQR) time to first antimicrobial administration for patients with sepsis decreased by 37 minutes, from 4.7 (4.1-5.3) hours in 2013 to 3.9 (3.6-4.4) hours in 2018, although the slope of decrease varied across hospitals. During the same period, antimicrobial use within 48 hours, days of antimicrobial therapy, and receipt of broad-spectrum coverage decreased among the broader cohort of patients with SIRS. In-hospital mortality, 30-day mortality, length of hospitalization, new MDR culture positivity, and new MDR blood culture positivity decreased over the study period among both patients with sepsis and those with SIRS. When examining hospital-specific trends, decreases in antimicrobial use, days of therapy, and broadness of antibacterial coverage for patients with SIRS did not differ by hospital antimicrobial timing trend for sepsis. Overall, there was no evidence that accelerating antimicrobial timing for sepsis was associated with increasing antimicrobial use or impaired antimicrobial stewardship.

CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE In this multihospital cohort study, the time to first antimicrobial for sepsis decreased over time, but this trend was not associated with increasing antimicrobial use, days of therapy, or broadness of antimicrobial coverage among the broader population at-risk for sepsis, which suggests that shortening the time to antibiotics for sepsis is feasible without leading to indiscriminate antimicrobial use.

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Corresponding Author: Hallie C. Prescott, MD, MSc, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan, 2800 Plymouth Rd, North Campus Research Center, Bldg 16, 341E, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2800 (hprescot@med.umich.edu).

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When hospitals shorten time to antibiotic delivery for sepsis, do they prescribe more or broader antibiotics?

Trends in 152-hospital cohort (2013→2018)

Time-to-antimicrobial for sepsis declined (by 37 minutes)

Antibiotic initiation in **all SIRS-positive** declined (by 0.3%)

Days of therapy in **all SIRS-positive** declined (by 0.6 days)

Use of broad-spectrum coverage in **all SIRS-positive** dec. (by 2-4%)

Guideline Recommendations and Newer Data



Antimicrobial timing

Fluid resuscitation volume

Early

Ongoing

Fluid type

2021 SSC Guideline rec(s)

Background

Newer literature

Impact on Guidelines

Initial Fluid Resuscitation Volume



Surviving Sepsis
Campaign

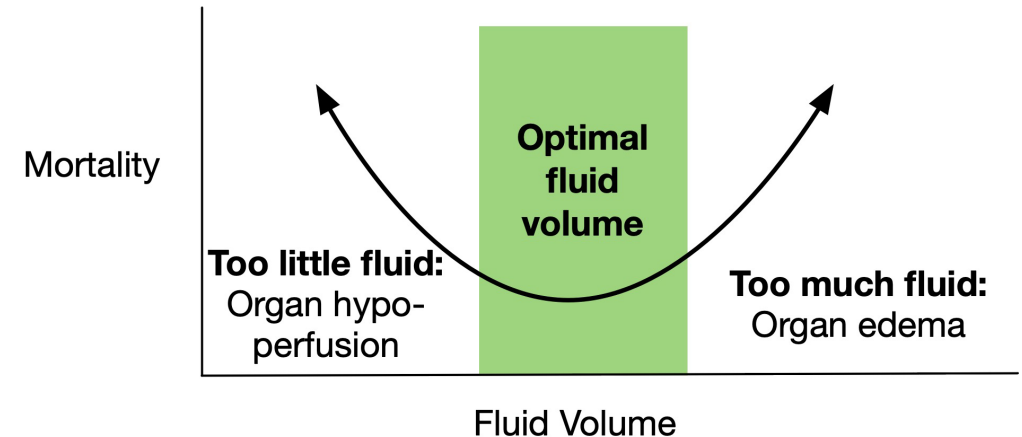
Initial Fluid Resuscitation Volume



5 For patients with sepsis induced hypoperfusion or septic shock we **suggest** that at least 30 mL/kg of intravenous (IV) crystalloid fluid should be given within the first 3 hours of resuscitation.

Why 30ml/kg? – Strong Theoretical Rationale

- Restore intravascular volume
- Treat hypotension
- Improve organ perfusion
- Halt further progression of sepsis



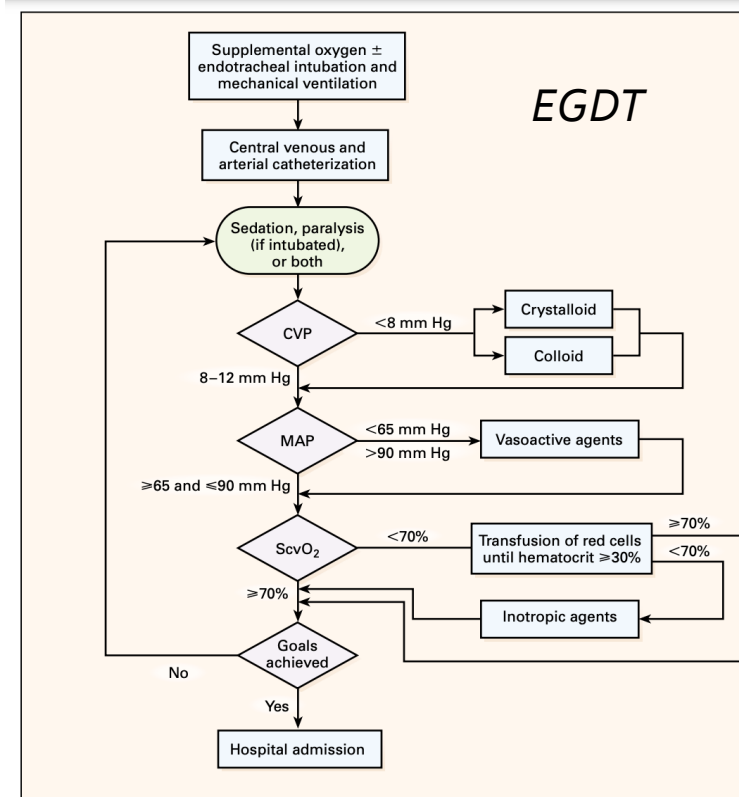
Why 30 ml/kg? – Trial Data

Earlier SSC Guidelines (2004, 2008, 2012) recommended EGDT.¹

Subsequent RCTs (ARISE, ProCESS, and ProMISe)^{2,3,4} and an individual-patient meta-analysis (PRISM)⁵ showed no difference between usual care (evolved), EGDT, or other protocolized resuscitation.

Virtually all patients in ARISE, ProCESS, and ProMISe got ≥ 30 ml/kg.

Interpretation: EGDT is not wrong, just not required.



Subgroup	EGDT	Usual Care	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P Value	Comparison
	no. of deaths/total no. of patients (%)				among Trials
Overall	462/1852 (24.9)	475/1871 (25.4)	0.97 (0.82–1.14)	0.68	0.73
Age					
<57 yr	111/611 (18.2)	112/655 (17.1)	1.09 (0.81–1.46)	0.69	0.85
57–71 yr	145/619 (23.4)	139/575 (24.2)	0.96 (0.73–1.25)		
≥72 yr	206/622 (33.1)	224/641 (34.9)	0.92 (0.73–1.17)		
Sex					
Female	192/790 (24.3)	195/772 (25.3)	0.95 (0.75–1.20)	0.71	0.98
Male	270/1062 (25.4)	280/1099 (25.5)	1.01 (0.83–1.23)		
Severe coexisting condition					
Liver					
No	427/1790 (23.9)	455/1813 (25.1)	0.94 (0.80–1.09)	0.01	0.12
Yes	34/59 (57.6)	20/58 (34.5)	2.51 (1.12–5.63)		
Respiratory					
No	415/1658 (25.0)	409/1692 (24.2)	1.05 (0.90–1.23)	0.01	0.18
Yes	46/191 (24.1)	66/179 (36.9)	0.54 (0.34–0.85)		
Cardiovascular					
No	442/1800 (24.6)	456/1824 (25.0)	0.98 (0.84–1.14)	0.84	0.89
Yes	19/49 (38.8)	19/47 (40.4)	0.92 (0.40–2.15)		
Renal					
No	446/1787 (25.0)	454/1808 (25.1)	0.99 (0.85–1.16)	0.36	0.69
Yes	15/62 (24.2)	21/63 (33.3)	0.67 (0.29–1.53)		
Immunocompromised state					
No	357/1568 (22.8)	375/1609 (23.3)	0.97 (0.82–1.14)	0.92	0.01
Yes	104/281 (37.0)	100/262 (38.2)	1.02 (0.70–1.46)		
Site of infection					
Lungs	171/656 (26.1)	172/618 (27.8)	0.93 (0.72–1.19)	0.39	0.35
Abdomen	49/172 (28.5)	43/163 (26.4)	1.08 (0.66–1.77)		
Blood	59/171 (34.5)	60/172 (34.9)	0.98 (0.62–1.53)		
Soft tissue	24/154 (15.6)	16/152 (10.5)	1.58 (0.79–3.16)		
Urinary tract	61/154 (17.2)	79/369 (21.4)	0.74 (0.51–1.08)		
Other or unknown	98/345 (28.4)	105/397 (26.4)	1.10 (0.79–1.52)		
Severity of illness					
Eligibility criterion met					
Refractory hypotension	121/819 (14.8)	146/831 (17.6)	0.81 (0.62–1.06)	0.09	0.53
Hyperlactatemia	213/715 (29.8)	221/727 (30.4)	0.98 (0.78–1.22)		
Both	128/315 (40.6)	108/313 (34.5)	1.32 (0.94–1.83)	0.26	0.21
Last lactate level before randomization					
<2.1 mmol/liter	44/313 (14.1)	52/342 (15.2)	0.92 (0.59–1.43)		
2.1–4.0 mmol/liter	64/397 (16.1)	83/410 (20.2)	0.76 (0.53–1.09)		
≥4.1 mmol/liter	319/912 (35.0)	297/884 (33.6)	1.07 (0.88–1.30)	0.95	0.65
APACHE II Acute Physiology Score					
<9	96/677 (14.2)	96/643 (14.9)	0.97 (0.71–1.32)	0.24	0.82
9–13	134/572 (23.4)	135/598 (22.6)	1.03 (0.78–1.35)		
≥14	232/603 (38.5)	244/630 (38.7)	0.98 (0.77–1.25)		
APACHE II score					
<14	74/666 (11.1)	58/650 (8.9)	1.30 (0.90–1.88)	0.34	0.47
14–19	137/576 (23.8)	158/614 (25.7)	0.89 (0.69–1.17)		
≥20	251/610 (41.1)	259/607 (42.7)	0.94 (0.75–1.18)		
SOFA score					
<3	69/527 (13.1)	75/503 (14.9)	0.85 (0.60–1.22)	0.65	0.97
3 or 4	127/547 (23.2)	118/579 (20.4)	1.17 (0.88–1.56)		
≥5	266/778 (34.2)	282/789 (35.7)	0.94 (0.76–1.16)		
Customized risk of death					
<14%	46/617 (7.5)	53/634 (8.7)	0.85 (0.57–1.29)	0.55	0.62
≥14% and <30%	135/609 (22.2)	133/628 (21.2)	1.06 (0.80–1.39)		
≥30%	280/619 (45.2)	287/608 (47.2)	0.93 (0.74–1.17)		
Invasive mechanical ventilation					
No	386/1670 (23.1)	401/1708 (23.5)	0.98 (0.83–1.15)	0.17	0.21
Yes	76/382 (19.9)	74/363 (20.4)	0.87 (0.55–1.37)		
Vasopressor infusion					
No	360/1559 (23.1)	393/1592 (24.7)	0.92 (0.78–1.09)		
Yes	101/291 (34.7)	82/277 (29.6)	1.23 (0.85–1.77)		

¹Rivers, et al. *NEJM*, 2001.

²Peake, et al. *NEJM*, 2015.

³Angus, et al. *NEJM*, 2016.

⁴Mouncey, et al. *NEJM*, 2016.

⁵Rowan, et al. *NEJM*, 2017.

Why 30 ml/kg? Prospective Observational Data



Improvement in Process of Care
and Outcome After a Multicenter
Severe Sepsis Educational Program in Spain

**The Surviving Sepsis Campaign: results of an
international guideline-based performance
improvement program targeting severe sepsis**

Guideline Bundles Adherence and Mortality in
Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock

**Mortality Changes Associated with Mandated Public Reporting
for Sepsis**

The Results of the New York State Initiative

Association Between State-Mandated Protocolized Sepsis Care
and In-hospital Mortality Among Adults With Sepsis

Surviving Sepsis
Campaign



Department
of Health

Improved implementation of sepsis
bundles (inc. 30ml/kg) are associated
with reduced mortality over time in
pre/post and Difference-In-Difference
studies

...but multicomponent intervention,
confounded by increasing
recognition

Ferrer, et al. *JAMA*, 2008.

Levy, et al. *Intensive Care Medicine*, 2010.

Van Zanten, et al. *Critical Care Medicine*, 2014.

Levy, et al. *AJRCCM*, 2018.

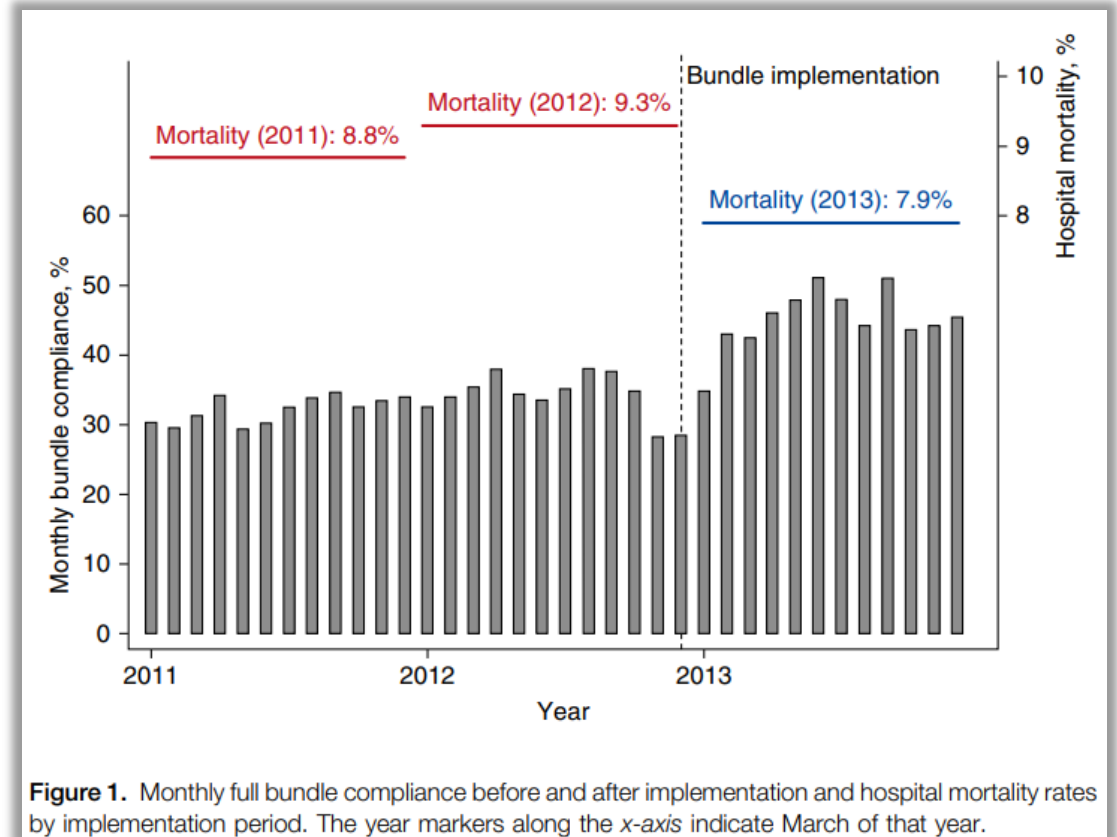
Kahn, et al. *JAMA*, 2019.

Why 30 ml/kg? Prospective Observational Data

Multicenter Implementation of a Treatment Bundle for Patients with Sepsis and Intermediate Lactate Values

Vincent X. Liu^{1,2}, John W. Morehouse², Gregory P. Marelich², Jay Soule², Thomas Russell², Melinda Skeath³, Carmen Adams³, Gabriel J. Escobar^{1,2}, and Alan Whippy²

Conclusions: Multicenter implementation of a treatment bundle for patients with sepsis and intermediate lactate values improved bundle compliance and was associated with decreased hospital mortality. These decreases were mediated by improved mortality and increased fluid administration among patients with a history of heart failure and/or chronic kidney disease.



Ongoing Fluid Resuscitation Volume



Surviving Sepsis
Campaign



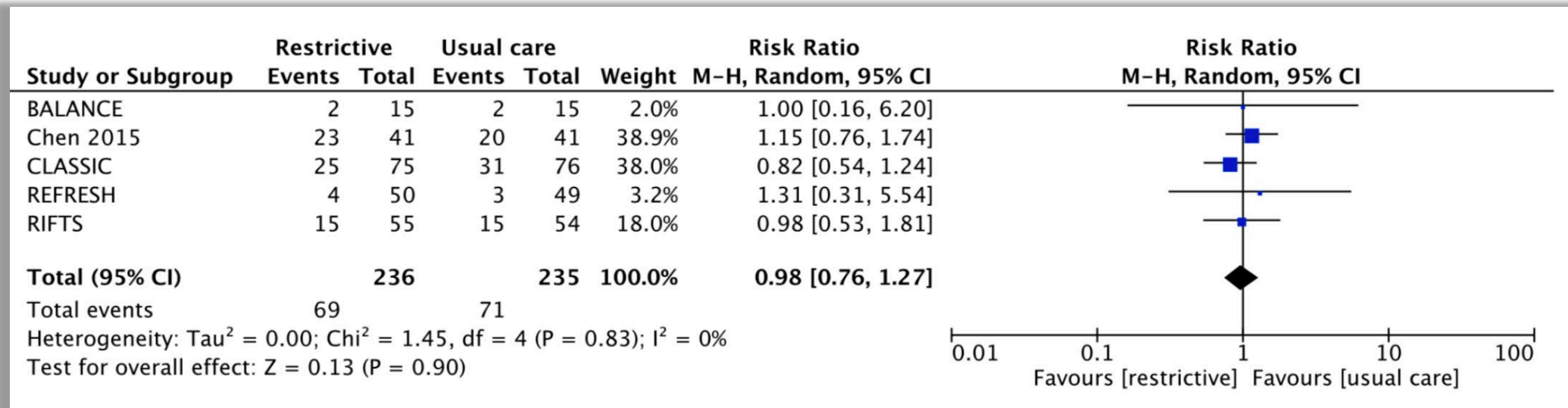
45

There is insufficient evidence to make a recommendation on the use of restrictive versus liberal fluid strategies in the first 24 hours of resuscitation in patients with sepsis and septic shock who still have signs of hypoperfusion and volume depletion after the initial resuscitation.

Why No Recommendation on Subsequent Resuscitation?

5 pilot RCTs –
no signal

Wide heterogeneity in
definitions of
conservative vs. liberal



Update 1: CLASSIC and CLOVER Trials



“Fluid-heavy” vs “fluid-restrictive” approaches to resuscitation beyond 30ml/kg are equivalent

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Restriction of Intravenous Fluid in ICU Patients with Septic Shock

T.S. Meyhoff, P.B. Hjortrup, J. Wetterslev, P. Sivapalan, J.H. Laake, M. Cronhjort, S.M. Jakob, M. Cecconi, M. Nalos, M. Ostermann, M. Malbrain, V. Pettilä, M.H. Møller, M.-B.N. Kjær, T. Lange, C. Overgaard-Steensen, B.A. Brand, M. Winther-Olesen, J.O. White, L. Quist, B. Westergaard, A.B. Jonsson, C.J.S. Hjortsø, N. Meier, T.S. Jensen, J. Engstrøm, L. Nebrich, N.C. Andersen-Ranberg, J.V. Jensen, N.A. Joseph, L.M. Poulsen, L.S. Herløv, C.G. Sølling, S.K. Pedersen, K.K. Knudsen, T.S. Straarup, M.L. Vang, H. Bundgaard, B.S. Rasmussen, S.R. Aagaard, T. Hildebrandt, L. Russell, M.H. Bestle, M. Schönmeyer-Lund, A.C. Bröchner, C.F. Elvander, S.K.L. Hoffmann, M.L. Rasmussen, Y.K. Martin, F.F. Friberg, H. Seter, T.N. Aslam, S. Ådnøy, P. Seidel, K. Strand, B. Johnstad, E. Joelsson-Alm, J. Christensen, C. Ahlstedt, C.A. Pfortmueller, M. Siegemund, M. Greco, J. Raděj, M. Křiz, D.W. Gould, K.M. Rowan, P.R. Mouncey, and A. Perner, for the CLASSIC Trial Group*

“Restrictive” versus “usual care” approach to fluid resuscitation (4.5L vs 6.0L)

No difference in outcomes

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Early Restrictive or Liberal Fluid Management for Sepsis-Induced Hypotension

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Prevention and Early Treatment of Acute Lung Injury Clinical Trials Network*

“Vasopressor early” versus “Fluid heavy” strategy (3.3L vs 5.4L)

No difference in outcomes, stopped early for futility

Update 2: FRESH Trial

- **Patients:**

- 124 patients with septic shock in 13 ICUs in US and UK
- After receiving a mean 2.3L fluid resuscitation

- **Intervention:**

- Protocol-guided fluid and vasopressor titration based on results of a passive leg raise test to assess fluid responsiveness (>10% increase in stroke volume).

- **Comparator:** Usual care

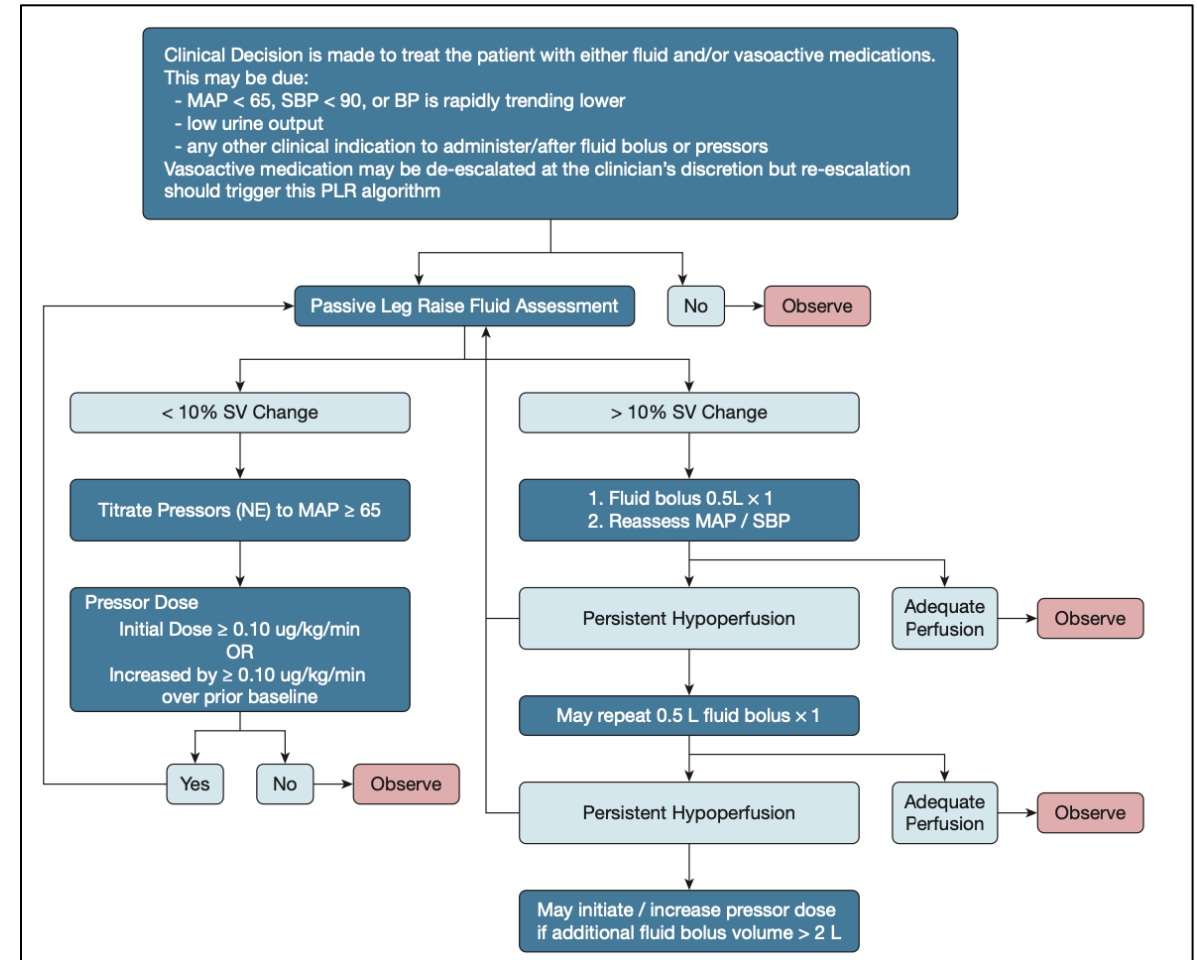
- **Outcome:** Fluid balance (primary)



Semi-recumbent position



Passive leg raising



FRESH Trial Outcomes



Outcomes	Intervention (N=83)	Control (N=41)	p
Fluid balance at 72 hours or day 3, mean	0.7 L	2.0 L	0.02
Receipt of renal replacement therapy	5%	18%	0.04
Receipt of invasive mechanical ventilation	18%	34%	0.04
Length of ICU stay, mean	3.3 day	6.2 day	0.11

INTERPRETATION: Physiologically informed fluid and vasopressor resuscitation with the use of the passive leg raise-induced stroke volume change to guide management of septic shock is safe and demonstrated lower net fluid balance and reductions in the risk of renal and respiratory failure. Dynamic assessments to guide fluid administration may improve outcomes for patients with septic shock compared with usual care.

Initial and Ongoing Fluid Resuscitation Volume



LOW

5

For patients with sepsis induced hypoperfusion or septic shock we **suggest** that at least 30 mL/kg of intravenous (IV) crystalloid fluid should be given within the first 3 hours of resuscitation.

*Unchanged: virtually all patients in FRESH, CLASSIC, and CLOVERS received 30ml/kg pre-randomization.



45

There is insufficient evidence to make a recommendation on the use of restrictive versus liberal fluid strategies in the first 24 hours of resuscitation in patients with sepsis and septic shock who still have signs of hypoperfusion and volume depletion after the initial resuscitation.

*My impression: perhaps “fluid restrictive” vs “fluid liberal” is the wrong paradigm, and more personalized approaches like in FRESH trial may be better

Guideline Recommendations and Newer Data



Antimicrobial timing
Fluid resuscitation volume
Fluid type



2021 SSC Guideline rec(s)
Background
Newer literature
Impact on Guidelines

Surviving Sepsis Campaign



LOW

33

For adults with sepsis or septic shock, we **suggest** using balanced crystalloids instead of normal saline for resuscitation.

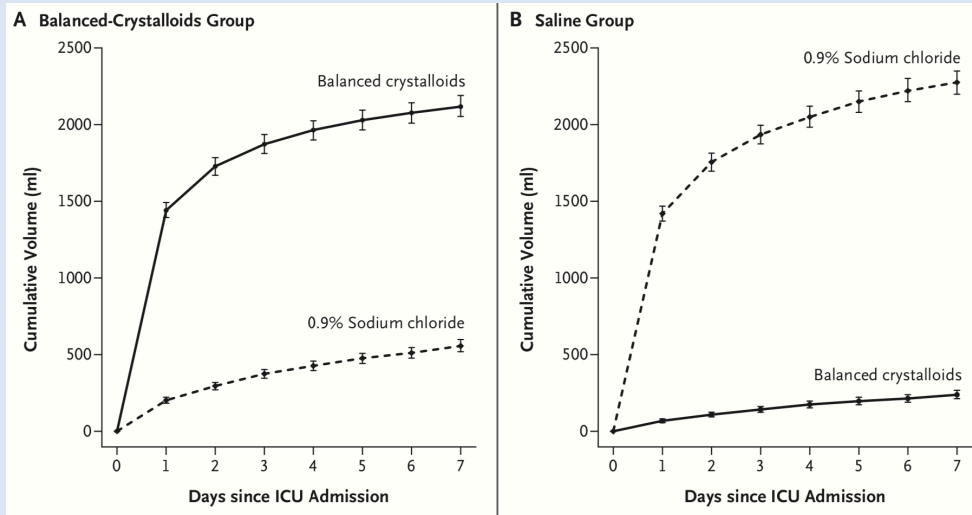
2016 STATEMENT



*“We **suggest** using either balanced crystalloids or saline for fluid resuscitation of patients with sepsis or septic shock”*

Background for SCC Statement

Feasible to give majority balanced fluid



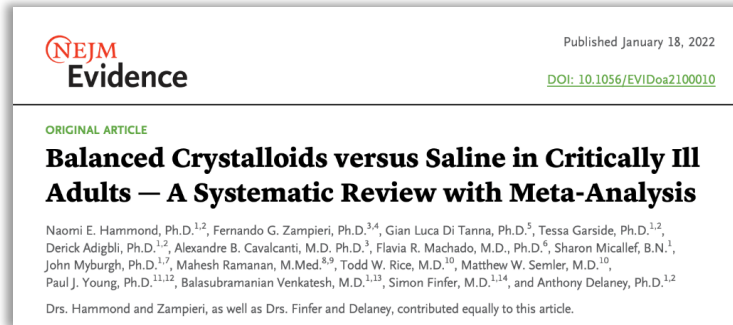
Associated with mortality benefit

Balanced Crystalloids versus Saline in Sepsis A Secondary Analysis of the SMART Clinical Trial

Ryan M. Brown¹, Li Wang², Taylor D. Coston³, Nathan I. Krishnan³, Jonathan D. Casey¹, Jonathan P. Wanderer^{4,5}, Jesse M. Ehrenfeld^{4,5,6,7}, Daniel W. Byrne², Joanna L. Stollings⁸, Edward D. Siew⁹, Gordon R. Bernard¹, Wesley H. Self¹⁰, Todd W. Rice¹, and Matthew W. Semler¹; for the SMART Investigators* and the Pragmatic Critical Care Research Group

26% vs 31% in-hospital mortality
5% absolute risk reduction
consistent across adjusted analyses
aOR 0.74 (0.59, 0.93)

Background for Recommendation



In meta-analysis of 13 trials (35,884 patients), there is high probability that balanced solutions **reduce mortality** in critically ill patients overall, particularly in sepsis.

Effect of Early Balanced Crystalloids Before ICU Admission on Sepsis Outcomes

Karen E. Jackson, MD; Li Wang, MS; Jonathan D. Casey, MD; Gordon R. Bernard, MD; Wesley H. Self, MD; SMART Investigators

Association between Type of Fluid Received Prior to Enrollment, Type of Admission, and Effect of Balanced Crystalloid in Critically Ill Adults

A Secondary Exploratory Analysis of the BaSICS Clinical Trial



Effect is strongest if balanced fluids are **started in ED**.



Original Investigation | Medical Education

Order Substitutions and Education for Balanced Crystalloid Solution Use in an Integrated Health Care System and Association With Major Adverse Kidney Events



An EHR-implementation program to prioritize balanced fluids over normal saline was associated with an increase in use of balanced fluid use

Hammond, *et al.*, *NEJM Evidence*, 2021.
Jackson, *et al.*, *Chest*, 2021.

Zampieri, *et al.*, *AJRCCM*, 2022.
Bledsoe, *et al.*, *JAMA Network Open*, 2022.

Fluid Type: Suggest → Recommend Balanced Fluids?



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For adults with sepsis or septic shock, we **suggest** using balanced crystalloids instead of normal saline for resuscitation.

Surviving Sepsis
Campaign

Evidence supports benefit of balanced fluids in critically ill patients, particularly with sepsis, and particularly when used throughout resuscitation.

Hospital policies and structures (*e.g.*, order sets, activatable orders, stocking of fluid in ED/ICU) should prioritize balanced fluids.

Sepsis is common, deadly and costly

Hospital Sepsis Program Core Elements

- A guide to build a successful hospital sepsis program to optimize outcomes

Early identification of sepsis and rapid aggressive treatment is key to positive outcomes

Antimicrobial timing:

- Deliver ASAP in sepsis or undifferentiated shock possibly due to sepsis
- Do a rapid evaluation of possible sepsis, treatment decision in 3 hours

Fluid Type:

- Use balanced fluid (e.g. Lactated Ringers) in all or nearly all patients

Fluid resuscitation volume

- 30ml/kg actual body weight should be default, but some may need less
- Further resuscitation beyond 30ml/kg should be guided by serial clinical assessment and use of dynamic assessment for fluid responsiveness.