



Recognition and Treatment of Pediatric Sepsis

Pediatric Emergencies: Early Assessment & Treatment of Children

***Rhea Vidrine, MD
9/28/21***

The Joint Heart Program, a collaboration of Kentucky Children's Hospital and Cincinnati Children's, is jointly ranked by U.S. News and World Report.



Objectives

- At the end of this presentation, learners will be able to:
 - Appreciate the difficulty in defining and recognizing pediatric sepsis
 - Acknowledge the importance of standardized screening and management in pediatric sepsis
 - Initiate appropriate treatment in potentially septic patients



Adult Sepsis-3 Definitions

- **Life-threatening organ dysfunction** caused by a **dysregulated host response** to infection
 - Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) change of ≥ 2 indicates organ dysfunction
- **Septic shock** is the state in which profound circulatory, cellular, and metabolic abnormalities are associated with a **greater risk of mortality** than with sepsis alone.
 - Clinical indicators include **hypotension and hyperlactatemia**

Clinical Features

Potential source of infection OR NEWS ≥ 4?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pneumonia • Empyema • UTI • Acute abdomen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meningitis • Infective endocarditis • CVC infection • Skin/soft tissue infection • Bone/joint infection • Wound infection • Other
New signs or symptoms of infection? TWO or more of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature $>38.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Heart Rate $>90\text{bpm}$ • WBC $<4 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ • Altered mental state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Respiratory Rate $>20\text{ bpm}$ • WBC $>12 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ • Blood glucose $>7.7\text{mmol/L}$
Evidence of organ dysfunction remote to the site of infection? ONE of the following or SOFA ≥ 2 (see opposite):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lactate $>2\text{mmol/L}$ • Systolic blood pressure $<90\text{mmHg}$ OR Mean arterial pressure $<65\text{mmHg}$ • Systolic blood pressure $>40\text{mmHg}$ below baseline • Creatinine $>175\text{mmol/L}$ OR urine output 0.5ml/kg/hour for more than 2 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral pulmonary infiltrates PLUS O_2 required to keep O_2 saturations $>92\%$ • Bilateral pulmonary infiltrates PLUS $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio $<300^*$ • Bilirubin $>34\text{ mmol/L}$ • Coagulopathy INR >1.5 OR APTT >60 seconds • Platelet count $<100 \times 10^9/\text{L}$
If YES to questions 1 +2 + 3 = criteria for SEPSIS	

Note: * PaO_2 measured in mmHg (1kPa = 7.5mmHg), FiO_2 as % converted into a decimal e.g. 32% = 0.32

Adapted from: Surviving Sepsis Campaign: International Guidelines for Management of Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock www.survivingsepsis.org

Schlapbach LJ, Kisoorn N. Defining Pediatric Sepsis. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2018; 172(4):312-314.

Matics T, Sanchez-Pinto L. Adaptation and Validation of a Pediatric Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score and Evaluation of the Sepsis-3 Definitions in Critically Ill Children. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2017; 171(10): E172352.

Singer M et al. The Third International Consensus Definitions for Sepsis and Septic Shock (Sepsis-3). *JAMA.* 2016; 315(8): 801-810.

Goldstein B, Giroir B, Randolph A. International Consensus Conference on Pediatric Sepsis. International pediatric sepsis consensus conference: definitions for sepsis and organ dysfunction in pediatrics. *Pediatr Crit Care Med.* 2005; 6(1):2-8.

What is Pediatric Sepsis?

- Pediatric sepsis definitions (2005)
 - **Sepsis** - SIRS associated with infection (2/4 criteria, one of which must be abnormal temperature or leukocyte count):
 - Core temperature of $> 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $< 36^{\circ}\text{C}$
 - Tachycardia or for children <1 yr old: bradycardia
 - Tachypnea
 - Leukocyte count elevated or depressed for age (not secondary to chemotherapy-induced leukopenia) or $>10\%$ immature neutrophils.
 - Infection: A suspected or proven infection caused by any pathogen OR a clinical syndrome associated with a high probability of infection.
 - **Severe sepsis** - sepsis + cardiovascular dysfunction OR ARDS OR ≥ 2 other organ dysfunction
 - **Septic shock** - sepsis with cardiovascular dysfunction

Schlapbach LJ, Kissoon N. Defining Pediatric Sepsis. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2018; 172(4):312-314.

Matics T, Sanchez-Pinto L. Adaptation and Validation of a Pediatric Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score and Evaluation of the Sepsis-3 Definitions in Critically Ill Children. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2017; 171(10): E172352.

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2017 Pediatric sepsis updates

- Adult definitions attempted to be applied but never formally adopted
- Adaptations to create pSOFA
- >8 points associated with increased mortality

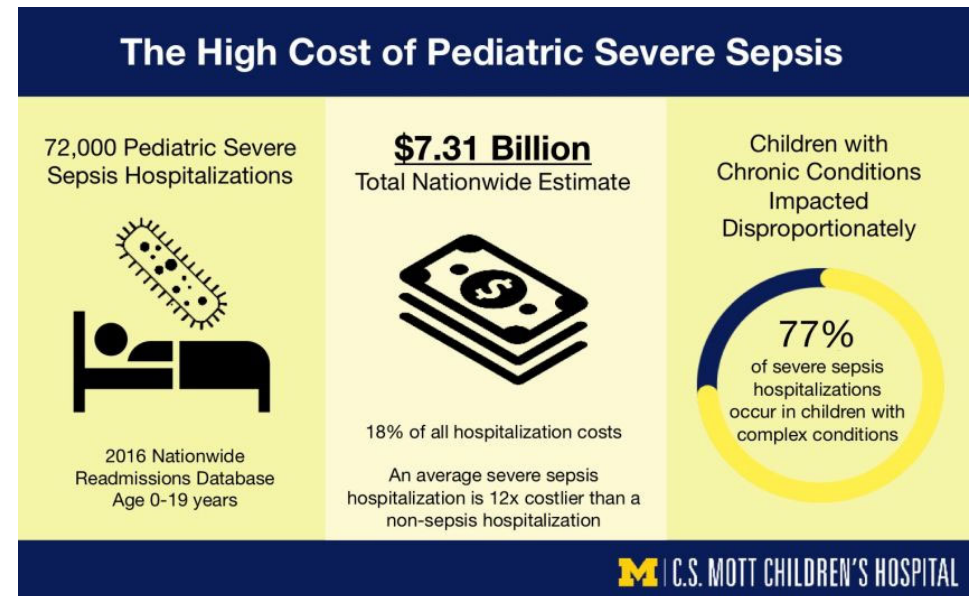


Table 1. Pediatric Sequential Organ Failure Assessment Score

Variables	Score ^a				
	0	1	2	3	4
Respiratory					
PaO ₂ :FiO ₂ ^b or SpO ₂ :FiO ₂ ^c	≥400 ≥292	300-399 264-291	200-299 221-264	100-199 With respiratory support 148-220 With respiratory support	<100 With respiratory support <148 With respiratory support
Coagulation					
Platelet count, ×10 ³ /μL	≥150	100-149	50-99	20-49	<20
Hepatic					
Bilirubin, mg/dL	<1.2	1.2-1.9	2.0-5.9	6.0-11.9	>12.0
Cardiovascular					
MAP by age group or vasoactive infusion, mm Hg or μg/kg/min ^d					
<1 mo	≥46	<46	Dopamine hydrochloride ≤5 or dobutamine hydrochloride (any)	Dopamine hydrochloride >5 or epinephrine ≤0.1 or norepinephrine bitartrate ≤0.1	Dopamine hydrochloride >15 or epinephrine >0.1 or norepinephrine bitartrate >0.1
1-11 mo	≥55	<55			
12-23 mo	≥60	<60			
24-59 mo	≥62	<62			
60-143 mo	≥65	<65			
144-216 mo	≥67	<67			
>216 mo ^e	≥70	<70			
Neurologic					
Glasgow Coma Score ^f	15	13-14	10-12	6-9	<6
Renal					
Creatinine by age group, mg/dL					
<1 mo	<0.8	0.8-0.9	1.0-1.1	1.2-1.5	≥1.6
1-11 mo	<0.3	0.3-0.4	0.5-0.7	0.8-1.1	≥1.2
12-23 mo	<0.4	0.4-0.5	0.6-1.0	1.1-1.4	≥1.5
24-59 mo	<0.6	0.6-0.8	0.9-1.5	1.6-2.2	≥2.3
60-143 mo	<0.7	0.7-1.0	1.1-1.7	1.8-2.5	≥2.6
144-216 mo	<1.0	1.0-1.6	1.7-2.8	2.9-4.1	≥4.2
>216 mo ^e	<1.2	1.2-1.9	2.0-3.4	3.5-4.9	≥5

Why is Sepsis Important?

- Sepsis is leading cause of pediatric mortality worldwide¹
 - 25% mortality rate for patients admitted to PICU
- Prevalence of severe sepsis has increased to 7.7%²
- 1/5th of sepsis survivors have a moderate disability¹
- Severe sepsis accounts for \$7.31 billion in healthcare costs³



Paper cited: Carlton, E., Barbaro, R., Iwashyna, T., Prescott, H. "Cost of Pediatric Severe Sepsis Hospitalizations" *JAMA Pediatrics*. DOI: [10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.2570](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.2570)

Weiss, S. L. *et al.* Global epidemiology of pediatric severe sepsis: the sepsis prevalence, outcomes, and therapies study. *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* **191**, 1147–1157 (2015).
Ruth, A. *et al.* Pediatric severe sepsis: current trends and outcomes from the Pediatric Health Information Systems database. *Pediatr Crit Care Med* **15**, 828–838 (2014).
Carlton, E. F., Barbaro, R. P., Iwashyna, T. "Jack" & Prescott, H. C. Cost of Pediatric Severe Sepsis Hospitalizations. *JAMA Pediatr.* (2019) doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.2570.

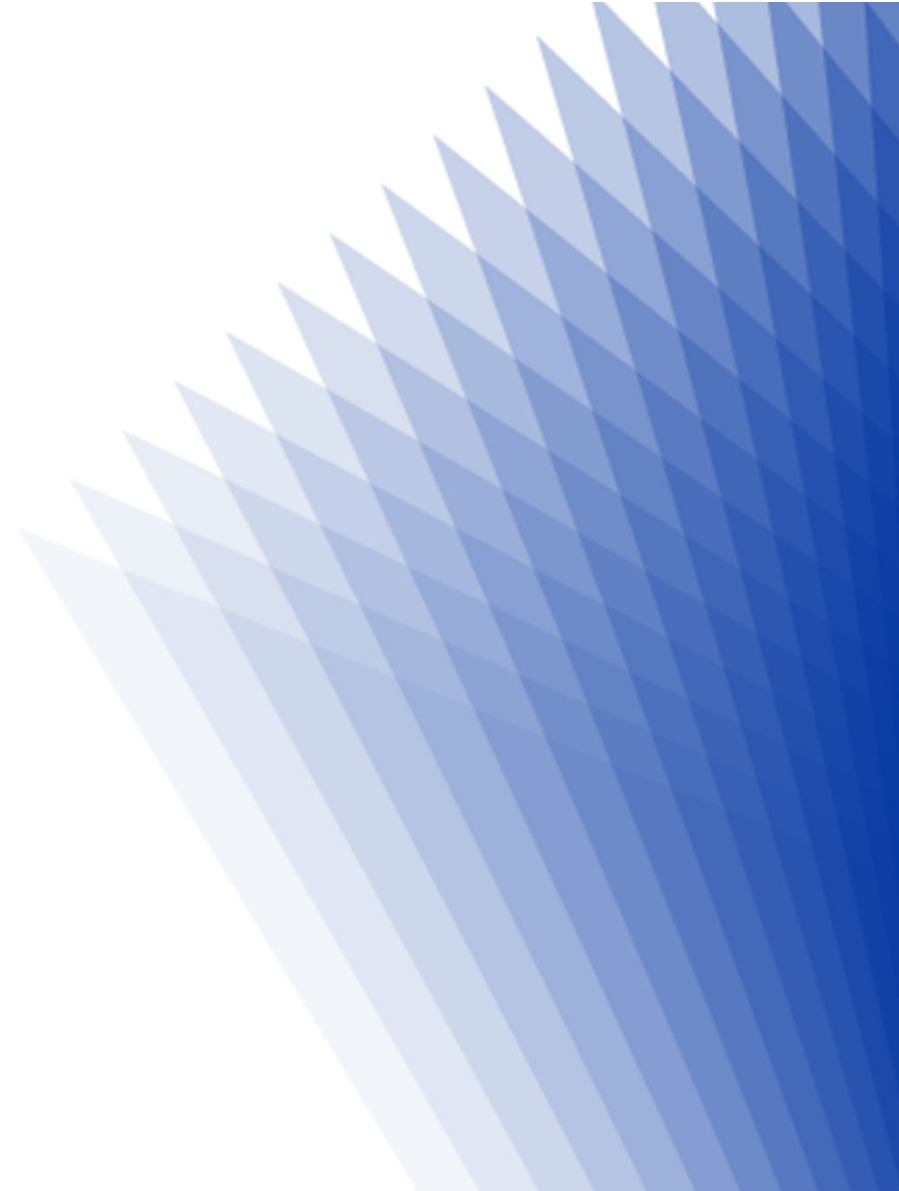
What Does Pediatric Sepsis Look Like?

- Fever or hypothermia ($<36^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Tachycardia or bradycardia if $< 1\text{yo}$
- Tachypnea
- Altered perfusion \rightarrow delayed capillary refill, mottled, poor pulses OR bounding pulses, flash capillary refill, flushed
- Hypotension \rightarrow **LATE SIGN**

Pediatric sepsis can look like many other disease processes



Standardizing Pediatric Sepsis Care



Treating Pediatric Sepsis 2020

- Panel of 49 international experts provided 77 statements on management and resuscitation of children with septic shock and other sepsis-associated organ dysfunction
 - “In children who present as acutely unwell, we suggest implementing **systematic screening** for timely recognition of septic shock and other sepsis-associated organ dysfunction (weak recommendation, very low quality of evidence).”
 - “We *recommend* **implementing a protocol/guideline** for management of children with septic shock or other sepsis-associated organ dysfunction (BPS).”

**Surviving Sepsis Campaign International
Guidelines for the Management of Septic
Shock and Sepsis-Associated Organ
Dysfunction in Children**

Standardizing Pediatric Sepsis Care

- Surviving Sepsis Campaign and American College of Critical Care Medicine (ACCM) recommend **implementing sepsis bundles** to
 - Improve sepsis recognition
 - Increase efficacy of treatment
- Standardized care throughout the institution → **improved recognition and treatment**



Standardize Care for Sepsis: Sepsis Bundles

Bundle	Elements
Recognition Bundle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementation of sepsis screening tool<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid identification• Prompt assessment
Resuscitation & Stabilization Bundle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Blood culture collection- Prompt antibiotic administration- Early rapid fluid bolus with crystalloid- Early lactate measurement
Performance Bundle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Monitor and measure processes- Continued improvement and sustainability

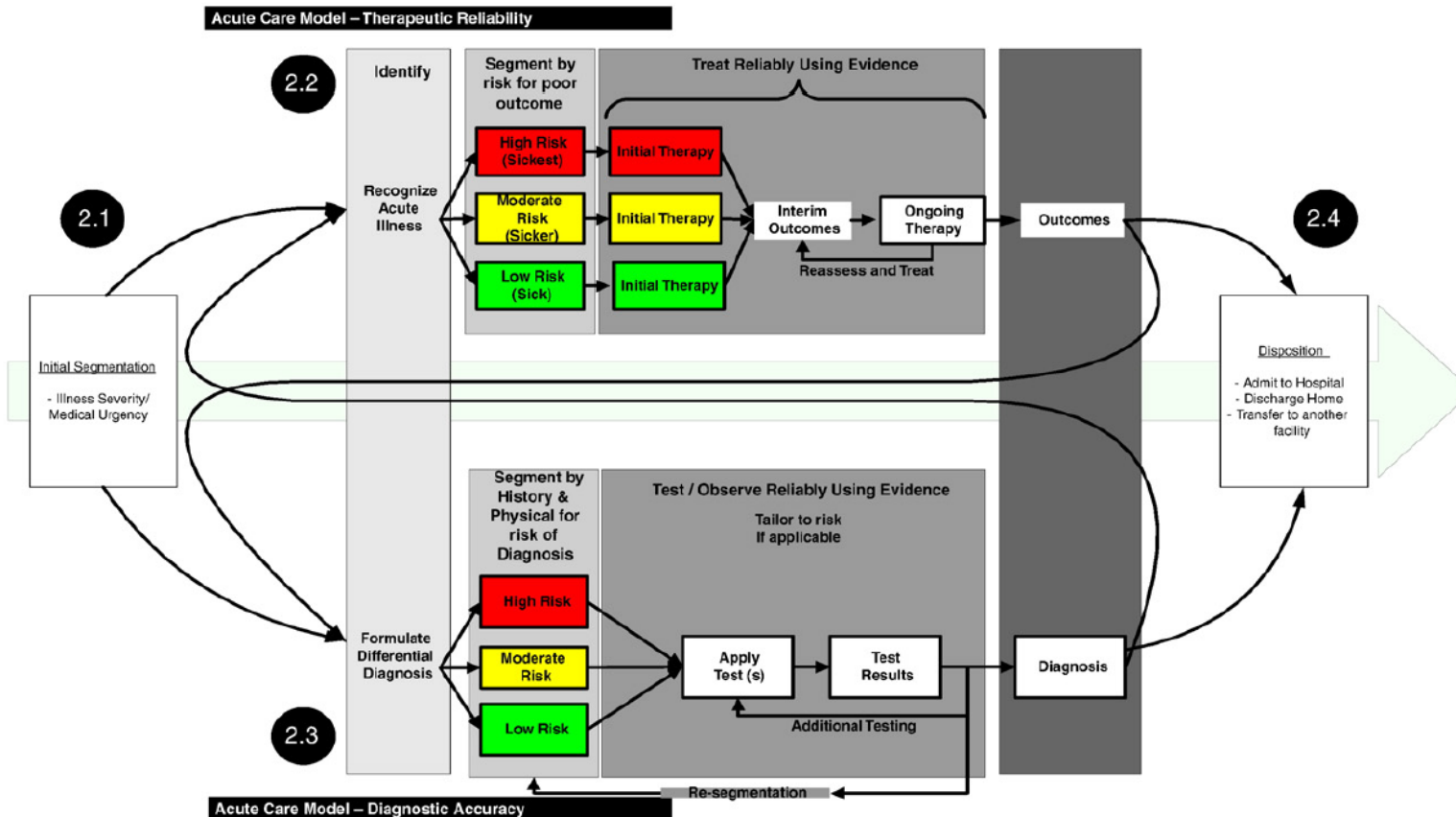
Why standardize care?

- Healthcare delivery has many characteristics of high-risk processes that increase the risk of failure:
 - Variable input
 - Complexity
 - Inconsistency
 - Tight coupling
 - Human intervention
 - Tight time constraints
 - Hierarchical culture



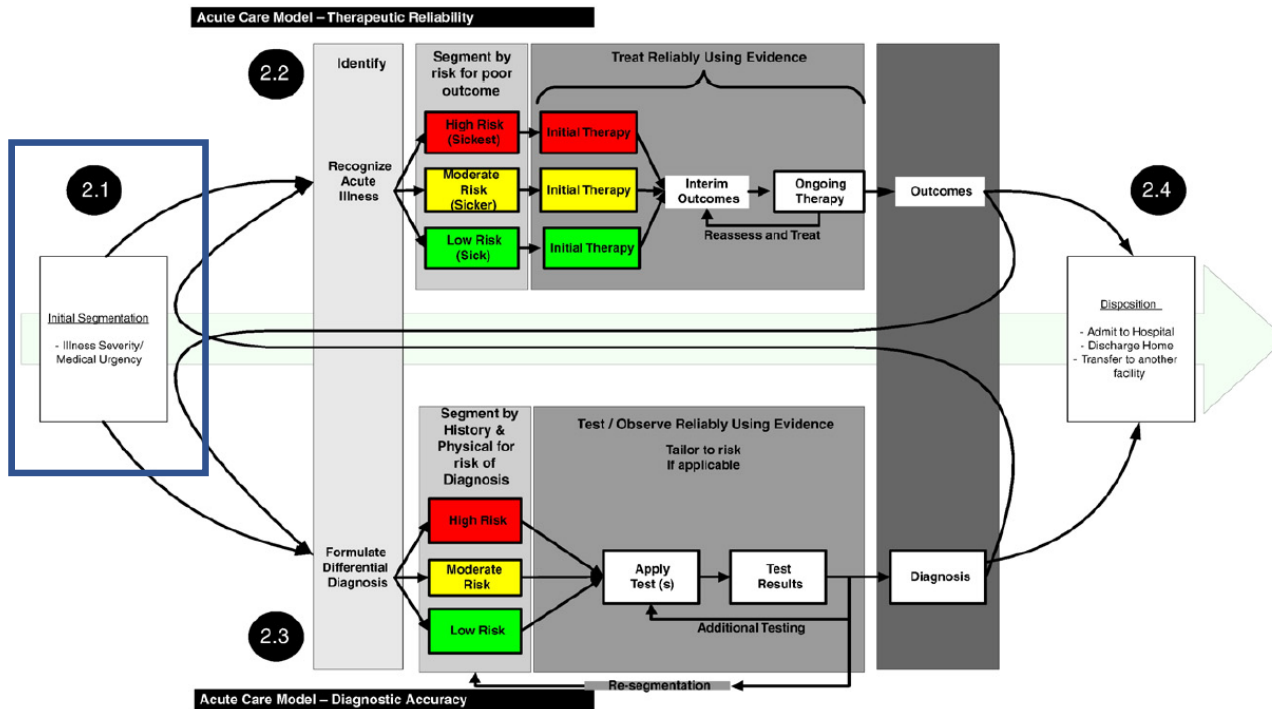
<https://images.app.goo.gl/8jq9iN8E1nR7kmZM6>

Acute Care Model



- Segmentation
- Therapeutic Reliability
- Diagnostic Accuracy
- Disposition

Acute Care Model – Segmentation

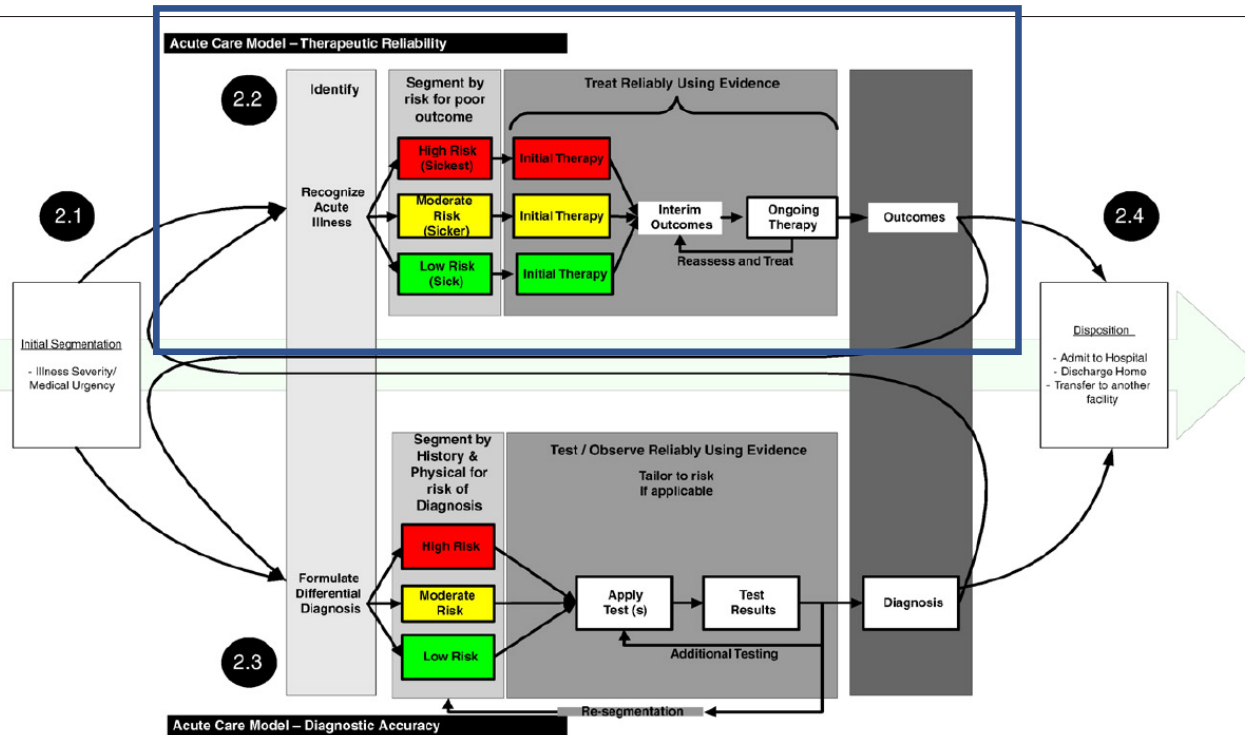


- Occurs at onset
- Repeated as new results/outcomes arise

Iyer S, Reeves S, Varadarajan K, et al. The Acute Care Model: A New Framework for Quality Care in Emergency Medicine. *Clin Pediatr Emerg Med* 2011;12:91-101.

Zackoff MW, Iyer S, Dewan M. An overarching approach for acute care delivery: extension of the acute care model to the entire inpatient admission. *Transl Pediatr*. 2018;7(4):246-252. doi:10.21037/tp.2018.09.14

Acute Care Model – Therapeutic Reliability

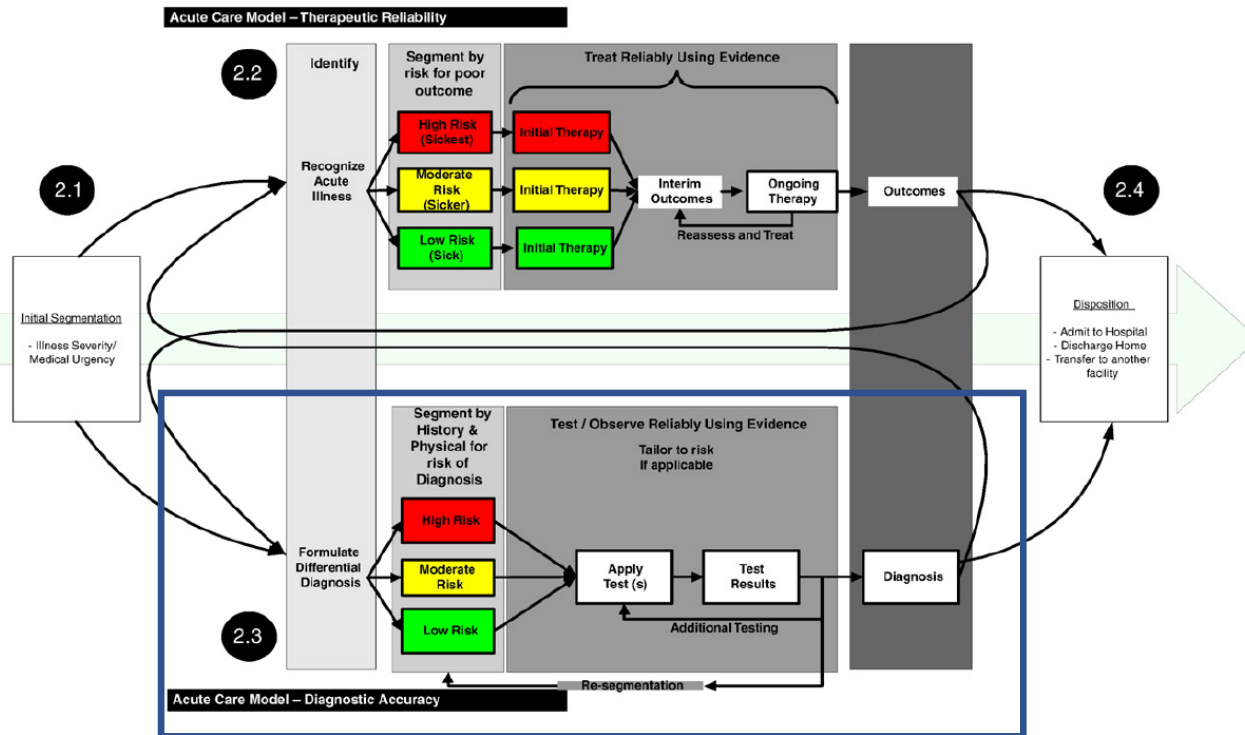


- Minimal diagnostic uncertainty
- Standardized therapeutic approach

Iyer S, Reeves S, Varadarajan K, et al. The Acute Care Model: A New Framework for Quality Care in Emergency Medicine. *Clin Pediatr Emerg Med* 2011;12:91-101.

Zackoff MW, Iyer S, Dewan M. An overarching approach for acute care delivery: extension of the acute care model to the entire inpatient admission. *Transl Pediatr.* 2018;7(4):246-252. doi:10.21037/tp.2018.09.14

Acute Care Model – Diagnostic Accuracy

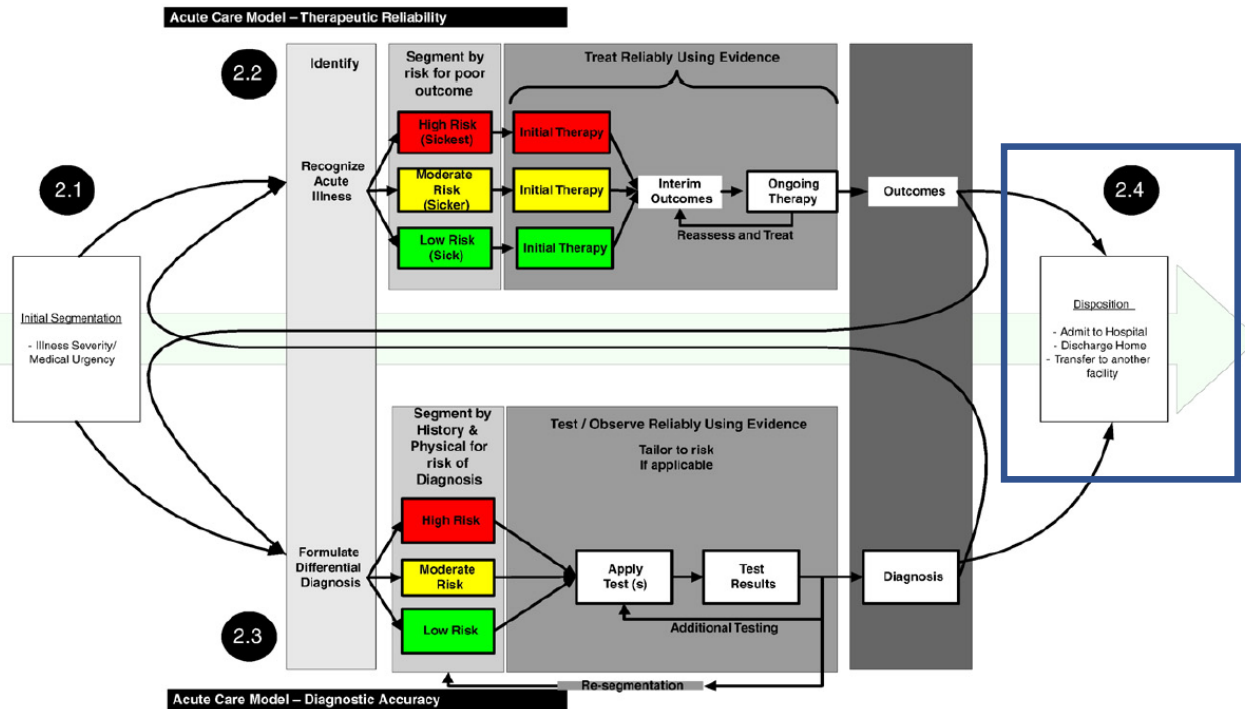


- Undifferentiated illness
- Custom approach to diagnosis
- Testing tailored to risk category

Iyer S, Reeves S, Varadarajan K, et al. The Acute Care Model: A New Framework for Quality Care in Emergency Medicine. *Clin Pediatr Emerg Med* 2011;12:91-101.

Zackoff MW, Iyer S, Dewan M. An overarching approach for acute care delivery: extension of the acute care model to the entire inpatient admission. *Transl Pediatr*. 2018;7(4):246-252. doi:10.21037/tp.2018.09.14

Acute Care Model – Disposition

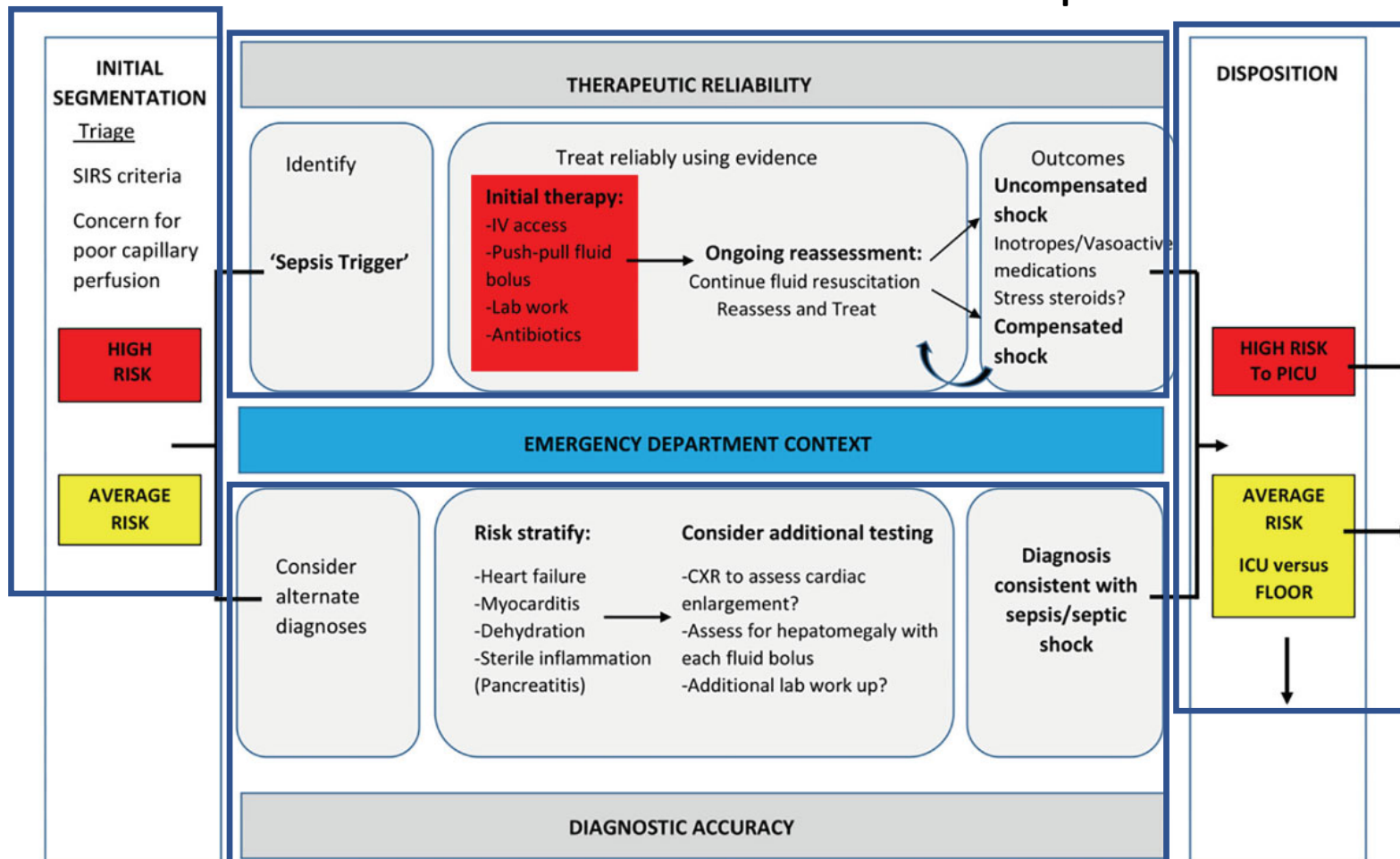


- Assess outcome of pathway to decided disposition

Iyer S, Reeves S, Varadarajan K, et al. The Acute Care Model: A New Framework for Quality Care in Emergency Medicine. *Clin Pediatr Emerg Med* 2011;12:91-101.

Zackoff MW, Iyer S, Dewan M. An overarching approach for acute care delivery: extension of the acute care model to the entire inpatient admission. *Transl Pediatr*. 2018;7(4):246-252. doi:10.21037/tp.2018.09.14

Acute Care Model for Pediatric Sepsis



Vidrine R, Atreya MR, Stalets EL. Continuum of care in pediatric sepsis: a prototypical acute care delivery model. *Transl Pediatr* 2018;7(4):253-261. doi: 10.21037/tp.2018.10.01

Zackoff MW, Iyer S, Dewan M. An overarching approach for acute care delivery: extension of the acute care model to the entire inpatient admission. *Transl Pediatr*. 2018;7(4):246-252. doi:10.21037/tp.2018.09.14

“To ensure seamless delivery of care across different care contexts, an **institutional approach to pediatric sepsis care is needed**”

**Suspect Sepsis.
Save Lives.**



JAMA | Original Investigation

Association Between the New York Sepsis Care Mandate and In-Hospital Mortality for Pediatric Sepsis

Idris V. R. Evans, MD, MSc; Gary S. Phillips, MAS; Elizabeth R. Alpern, MD, MSCE; Derek C. Angus, MD, MPH; Marcus E. Friedrich, MD; Niranjana Kissoon, MD; Stanley Lemeshow, PhD; Mitchell M. Levy, MD; Margaret M. Parker, MD; Kathleen M. Terry, PhD; R. Scott Watson, MD, MPH; Scott L. Weiss, MD, MSCE; Jerry Zimmerman, MD, PhD; Christopher W. Seymour, MD, MSc

- Previous studies have shown that implementation of bundles reduces time to antibiotics and time to fluid bolus but **no current studies on mortality**
- To determine the association between completion of a **sepsis bundle within 1 hour** and **risk adjusted in- hospital mortality** for pediatric sepsis and septic shock

Study Design

- All NY hospitals are required to have pediatric sepsis protocols that include the following interventions within 1 hour:
 - Blood culture collected before antibiotics
 - Broad spectrum antibiotics
 - 20ml/kg fluid bolus

Table 1. Patient Characteristics (continued)

Characteristic ^a	No. (%)		P Value ^b
	All Patients	1-h Bundle Completed in 1 h	
		Yes	No
Type of pathogen			
Gram positive	139 (11.8)	47 (16.0)	92 (10.4)
Gram negative	104 (8.8)	27 (9.2)	77 (8.7)
Other ^e	87 (7.4)	4 (1.4)	83 (9.4)
None reported	849 (72.0)	216 (73.5)	633 (71.5)
Hospital with pediatric intensive care	1031 (87.4)	258 (87.8)	773 (87.3)
Hospital length of stay, median (IQR), h	235 (118-496)	198 (101-358)	244 (123-554)
In-hospital death	139 (11.8)	22 (7.5)	117 (13.2)

Abbreviations: HMO, health maintenance organization; IQR, interquartile range.

^a No data were missing among individual bundle elements, transfer status, age, payer, place of protocol initiation, septic shock, site of infection, platelet count at protocol initiation, chronic renal disease or liver failure, diabetes, mechanical ventilation prior to protocol initiation, mortality, and length of stay.

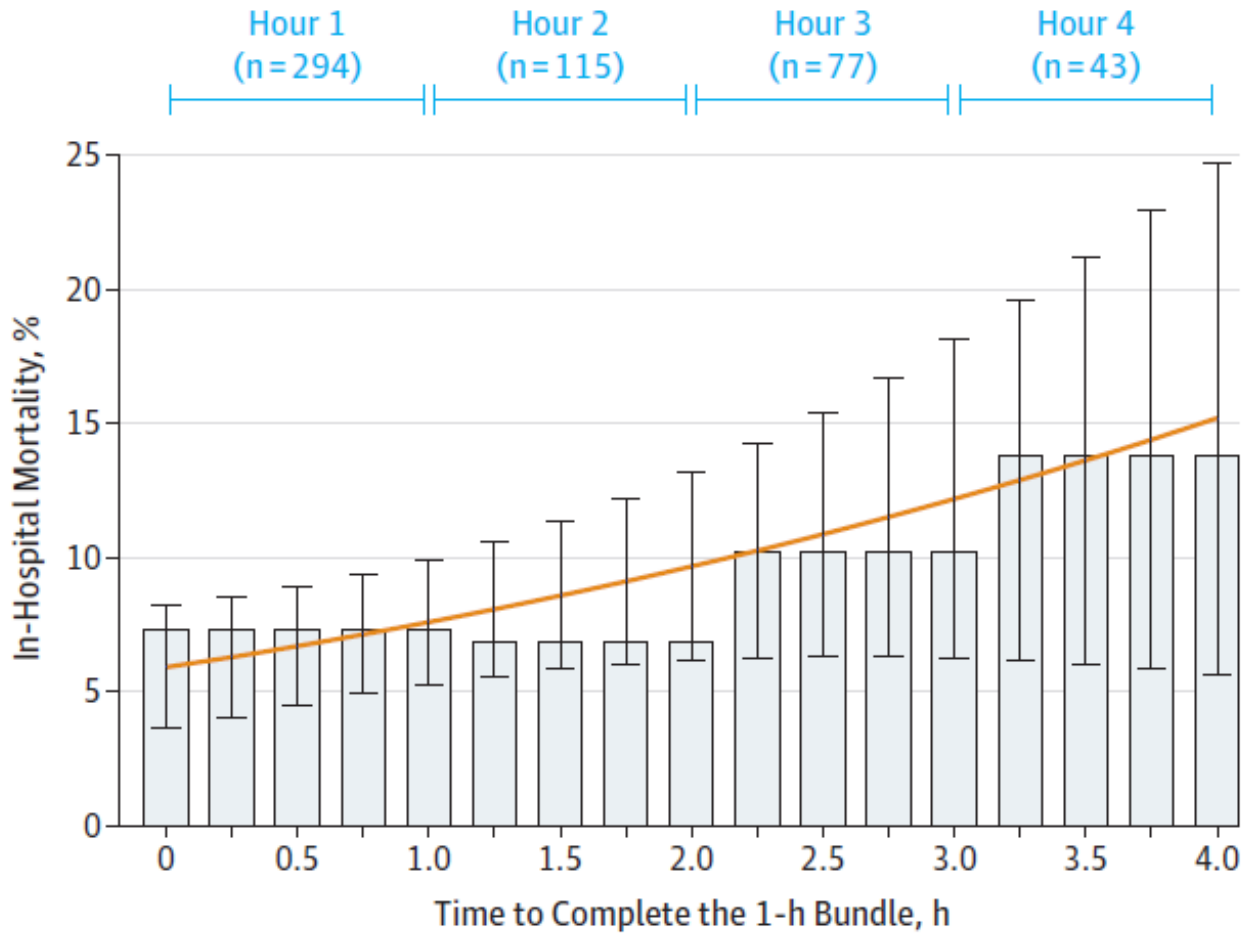
^b P values are based on Pearson χ^2 test unless otherwise noted.

^c P value based on Fisher exact test.

^d P value based on Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

^e Anaerobic bacteria, yeast, fungus, mixed pathogens, and viruses.

Figure 3. Crude In-Hospital Mortality and Predicted Risk of In-Hospital Death After the Time of Sepsis Protocol Initiation



Evans, I. V. R. *et al.* Association Between the New York Sepsis Care Mandate and In-Hospital Mortality for Pediatric Sepsis. *JAMA* **320**, 358–367 (2018).

JAMA | Original Investigation

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Completion of 1 hour sepsis bundle within 1 hour compared with not completing the bundle within 1 hour was associated with **lower risk adjusted in-hospital mortality** among patients with pediatric sepsis and septic shock

Published in final edited form as:

Ann Emerg Med. 2017 December ; 70(6): 759–768.e2. doi:10.1016/j.annemergmed.2017.03.019.

Improving Recognition of Pediatric Severe Sepsis in the Emergency Department: Contributions of a Vital Sign Based Electronic Alert and Bedside Clinician Identification

Fran Balamuth, MD, PhD, MSCE^{1,2}, Elizabeth R. Alpern, MD, MSCE^{3,4}, Mary Kate Abaddessa, MSN, RN¹, Katie Hayes, BS¹, Aileen Schast, PhD⁷, Jane Lavelle, MD^{1,2}, Julie C. Fitzgerald, MD, PhD^{5,6}, Scott L. Weiss, MD, MSCE^{5,6}, and Joseph J. Zorc, MD, MSCE^{1,2}

- Compared 2 cohorts- pre and post sepsis alert
- Positive alert= tachycardia or hypotension, concern for infection, and at least one of the following: abnormal cap refill, abnormal mental status, or high risk condition
- Positive sepsis alert → team huddle and decision to place on sepsis protocol
- Alert sensitivity 86%, specificity 99%.
- Sepsis alert increased ED sepsis recognition from 83% to 96%

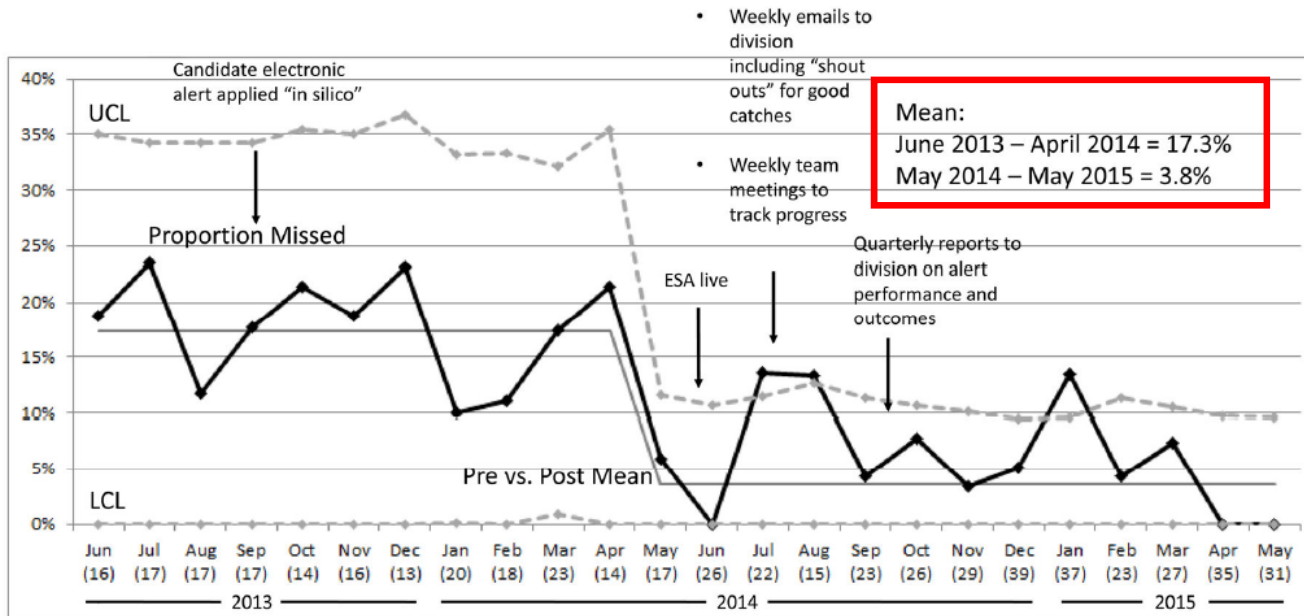


Figure 3.

Statistical process control chart demonstrating proportion of missed sepsis cases during the study. Black line is the proportion of missed cases during the study period. The total number of patients each month is indicated below the name of the month in parentheses. A missed case is a patient with severe sepsis in the PICU within 24 hours of their ED visit who was not treated with the ED sepsis protocol. The implementation of the ESA is marked with an arrow. Dashed lines are the upper and lower confidence limits defined as 2 standard deviations above and below the mean. Upper and lower control limits were recalculated each month, and a new mean was calculated when criteria were met for special cause variation. Aggregate proportions of missed cases for pre and post implementation period is indicated in the text box.

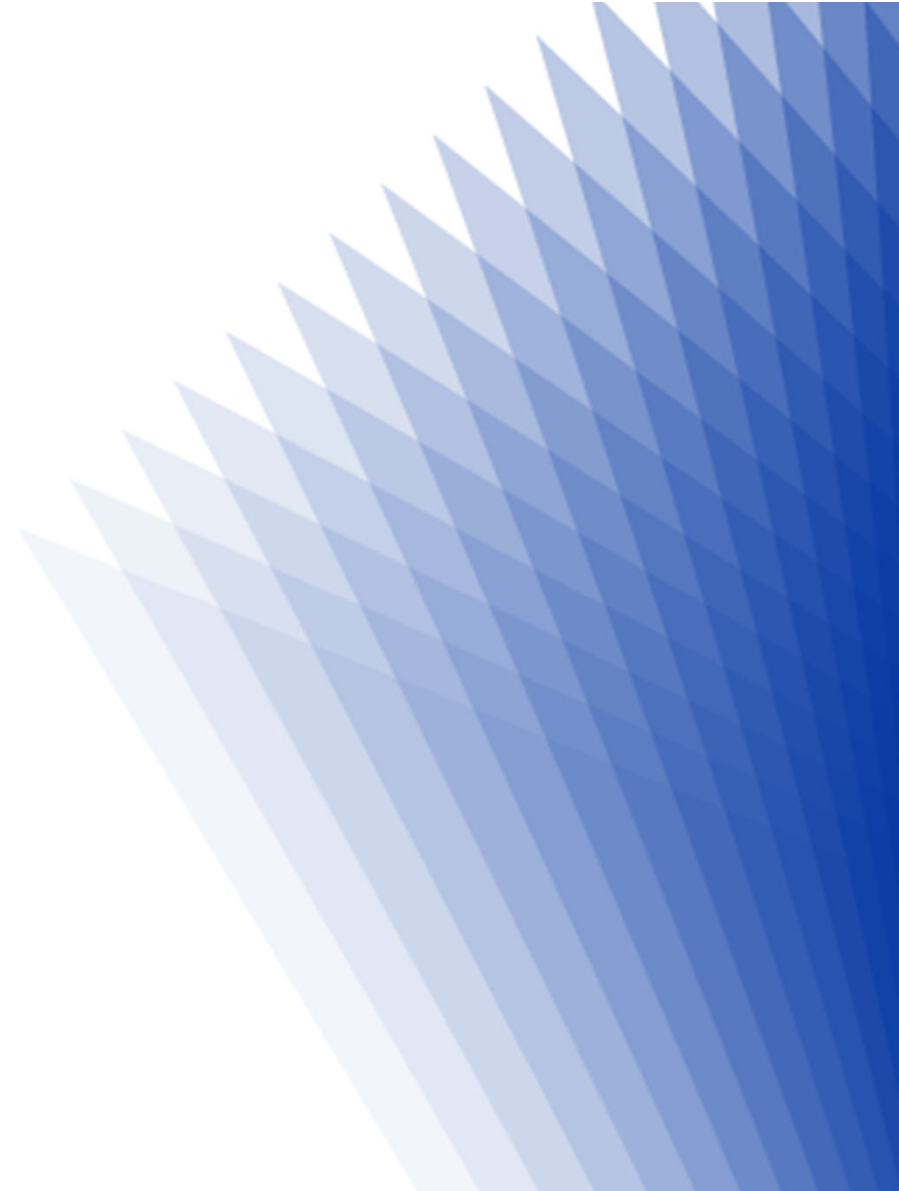
Alert fatigue??

No one alert is perfect

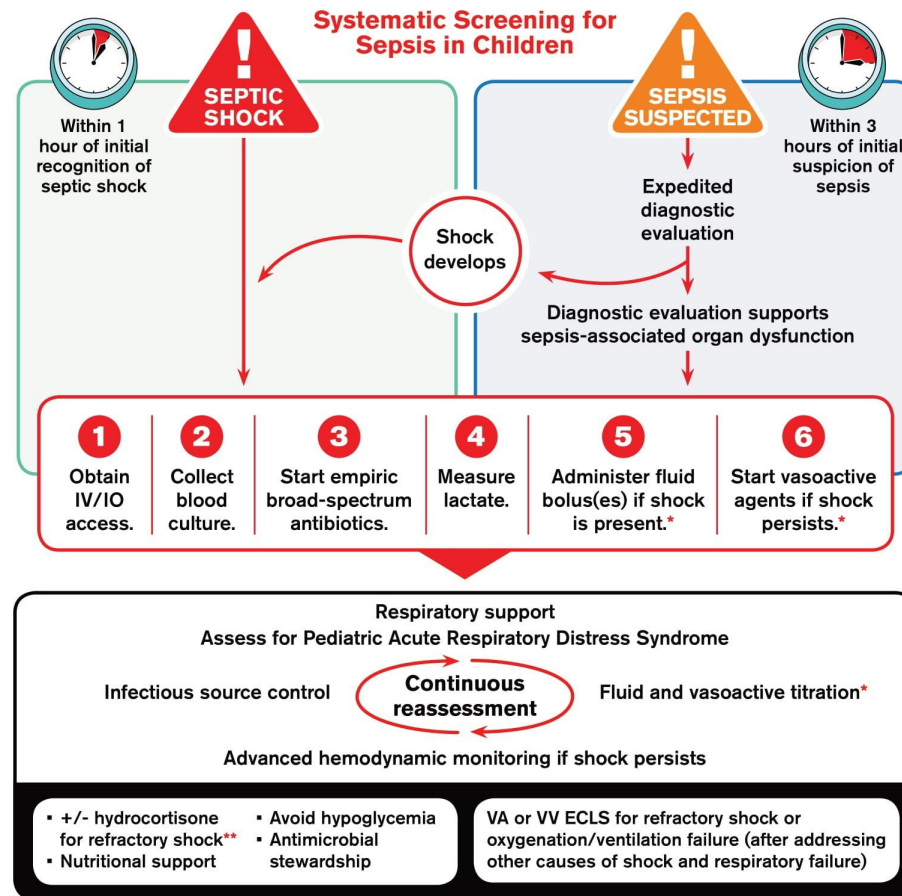
**Alerts should be tailored to your
population**



Management of Pediatric Sepsis



Initial Resuscitation Algorithm for Children



*See fluid and vasoactive algorithm. Note: Fluid bolus should be omitted from bundle if a) fluid overload is present or b) it is a low-resource setting without hypotension. Fluid in mL/kg should be dosed as ideal body weight.

**Hydrocortisone may produce benefit or harm.

PEDIATRIC SEPSIS ALGORITHM



Updated 10/1/20
Department of Pediatrics

This algorithm/order set should NOT be used for the well appearing febrile neonate

SEPSIS HUDDLE

Huddle Start Time: _____

S What triggered sepsis huddle (review sepsis screen and clinical concerns)?
 What findings does this patient have which are concerning for sepsis?

B What is the clinical background?
 When did the change in clinical status occur?

A What are the most recent vitals, labs, and exam?
 What do you think the problem is?

R Should the sepsis algorithm be initiated?
 Does the patient need additional monitoring or transfer to the PICU? Should an RRT be called?

Rapid Fluid Bolus In (Goal time) 20 minutes
Time: _____

Antibiotics Given (Goal time) 60 minutes
Time: _____

Open the sepsis order set

Initial Diagnosis / Review of Previous Work

Fluid resuscitation 20 mL/kg (unless signs of cardiac dysfunction)

Administer O₂ (min of 10 L NRB)

Antibiotics
 Order/administer
 Broaden if already on antibiotics

Initial Sepsis Labs

CBC i cal, POC glucose
 Blood gas Blood cx
 CMP Urine cx (if foley)
 Procal Resp cx (if ETT/trach)
 Lactate

0 - 20 minutes

ANTIBIOTIC CHOICES

Previously Healthy Patient (>2 months)

Unknown Source → Ceftazidime + Vancomycin* Intra-Abdominal Source → Cefepime + Flazyl +/- Vancomycin*

Concern for Toxic Shock → Cefepime + Vancomycin + Clindamycin

Medically Complex Patient

Immunocompromised (cardiac, transplant, cancer, suppressive meds) or CMV positive → Cefepime + Vancomycin*

Ill appearing Neonates

Neonates < 28 days → Ampicillin + Cefotaxime + Acyclovir +/- Vancomycin* Neonates 29-60 days → Ceftazidime + Vancomycin + Ampicillin +/- Acyclovir if high risk*

* HSV risk factors: Start Acyclovir infants 29 to 40 days with ≥ 1 of the following: Ill appearing, abnormal neurologic status, seizures, vesicular rash, hepatitis, mom known to have primary HSV infection at delivery

*Vancomycin is indicated for children with MRSA risk factors or highly-resistant S. pneumoniae. When Vancomycin is ordered it should be administered after the antibiotics listed above.

• MRSA risk factors: Bone/joint/deep tissue infection; history or family history of MRSA infection of recurrent boils/indwelling CVL/hardware or recent history of CVL/umbilical lines, neonate with facial skin or soft tissue infection

• Highly-resistant S. pneumoniae risk factors: recent B-lactam exposure, daycare attendance, non-vaccinated

PEDIATRIC SEPTIC SHOCK ALGORITHM



At 20 minutes
Reassess for ongoing signs of shock

- Persistent tachycardia for age
- Hypotension for age
- Poor perfusion

Continued signs of shock

Fluid administration (unless signs of cardiac dysfunction)

40 mL/kg
 60 mL/kg

Verify antibiotics ordered / given

Order pressors to bedside

Consider additional labs

Coags (PT/INR, PTT, Fibrinogen)
 ESR/CRP (concern for MIS-C)
 Cortisol

20 - 60 minutes

Transfer to PICU for management of septic shock after 2nd fluid bolus and continued signs of shock

At 60 minutes
Reassess for ongoing signs of septic shock / fluid refractory shock

Continued signs of shock

Ongoing Resuscitation

Initiate Pressors

Fluid resuscitation (if needed)

Consider stress hydrocortisone
(for pts with catecholamine resistant shock, chronic steroid use, home stress dose steroid use, known adrenal insufficiency)

60 - 90 minutes

Adapted from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center sepsis algorithm

Fluid Resuscitation

No ICU Care Available

- *in the absence of hypotension, we recommend against bolus fluid administration while starting maintenance fluids (strong recommendation, high quality of evidence).*
- *if hypotension is present, we suggest administering up to 40 mL/kg in bolus fluid (10–20 mL/kg per bolus)*

ICU Care Available

- *we suggest administering up to 40-60 mL/kg in bolus fluid (10-20 mL/kg per bolus) over the first hour (weak recommendation, low quality of evidence).*
 - Titrate to clinical markers of cardiac output
 - HR, BP, cap refill, level of consciousness, UOP, serial lactate, advanced monitoring
 - Discontinue if signs of fluid overload develop
 - Pulmonary edema, hepatomegaly

Fluid Resuscitation

- We suggest using **balanced/buffered crystalloids**, rather than 0.9% saline (weak recommendation, very low quality of evidence)
 - Hyperchloremia → metabolic acidosis, systemic inflammation, AKI, coagulopathy, and mortality when compared with resuscitation with more balanced/buffered crystalloids (LR, PlasmaLyte)

Initial Diagnosis / Review of Previous Work	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fluid resuscitation 20 mL/kg (max 1L) <i>(unless signs of cardiac dysfunction)</i>	Initial Sepsis Labs <i>(tube colors for labs)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Administer O₂ <i>(min of 10 L NRB)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotics <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Order/administer<input type="checkbox"/> Broaden if already on antibiotics	
	<input type="checkbox"/> CBC (purple) <input type="checkbox"/> POC glucose
	<input type="checkbox"/> Blood gas <input type="checkbox"/> Blood cx
	<input type="checkbox"/> CMP (mint gr) <input type="checkbox"/> Urine cx (if foley)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Procal (mint gr) <input type="checkbox"/> Resp cx (if ETT/trach)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lactate (on blood gas)



0 - 20 minutes

Antimicrobial Therapy

- In children with **septic shock**, we *recommend* starting antimicrobial therapy, **within 1 hour of recognition** (strong recommendation, very low quality of evidence)
- In children with **sepsis-associated organ dysfunction but without shock**, we *suggest* starting antimicrobial therapy, **within 3 hours of recognition** (weak recommendation, very low quality of evidence)

ANTIBIOTIC CHOICES

**Previously
Healthy Patient
(>2 months)**

Unknown
Source

Ceftriaxone
+ Vancomycin*

Intra-Abdominal
Source

Cefepime +
Flagyl +/-
Vancomycin*

Concern for
Toxic Shock

Cefepime+
Vancomycin +
Clindamycin

**Medically
Complex Patient**

Immunocompromised
(cardiac, transplant,
cancer, suppressive
meds) or CVL present

Cefepime+
Vancomycin*

**Ill appearing
Neonates**

Neonates < 28
days

Ampicillin +
Cefotaxime +
Acyclovir +/-
Vancomycin *

Neonates 29-60
days

Ceftriaxone +
Vancomycin +
Ampicillin +/-
Acyclovir if high risk⁺

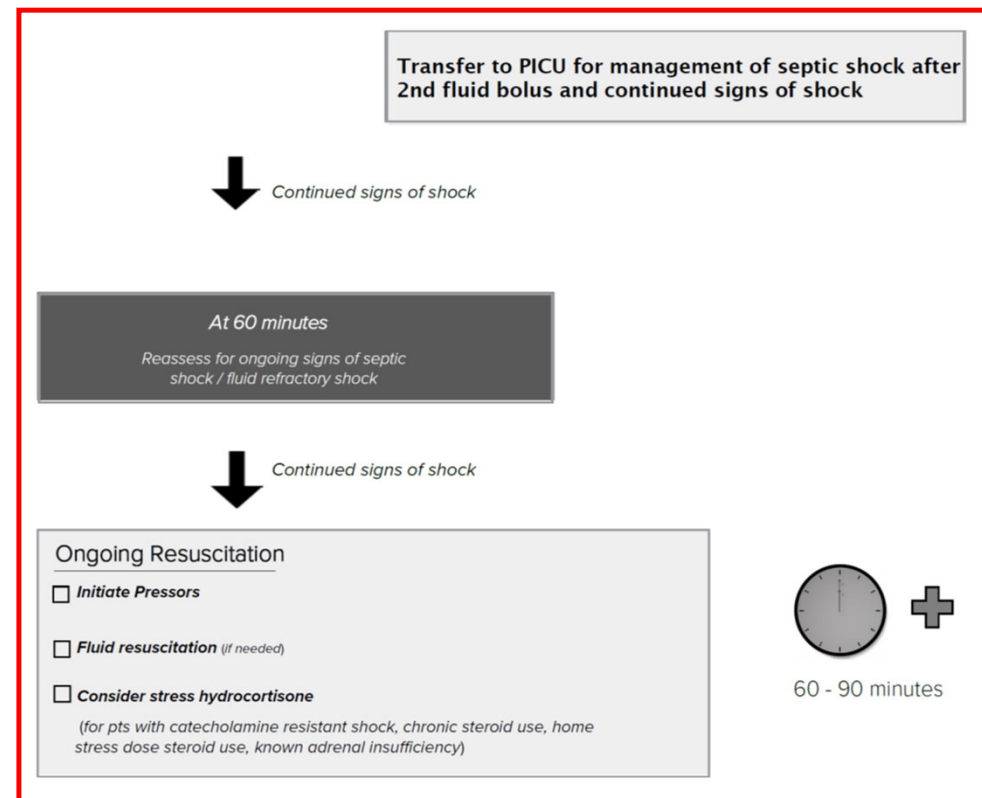
⁺ HSV risk factors: Start Acyclovir infants 29 to 40 days with ≥ 1 of the following: Ill appearing, abnormal neurologic status, seizures, vesicular rash, hepatitis, mom known to have primary HSV infection at delivery

*Vancomycin is indicated for children with **MRSA risk factors** or **highly-resistant S. pneumoniae**. When Vancomycin is ordered it should be administered *after* the antibiotic listed above.

- **MRSA risk factors:** bone/joint/deep tissue infection; history or family history of MRSA infection of recurrent boils, indwelling CVL/hardware or recent history of CVL/umbilical lines, neonate with focal skin or soft tissue infection
- **Highly-resistant S. pneumoniae risk factors:** recent B-lactam exposure, daycare attendance, non-vaccinated

Fluid Refractory Shock

- We suggest using **epinephrine** or **norepinephrine**, rather than dopamine, in children with septic shock (weak recommendation, low and very low quality of evidence, respectively).
- May be administered through a peripheral vein (or intraosseous, if in place) if central venous access is not readily accessible.



Monitoring

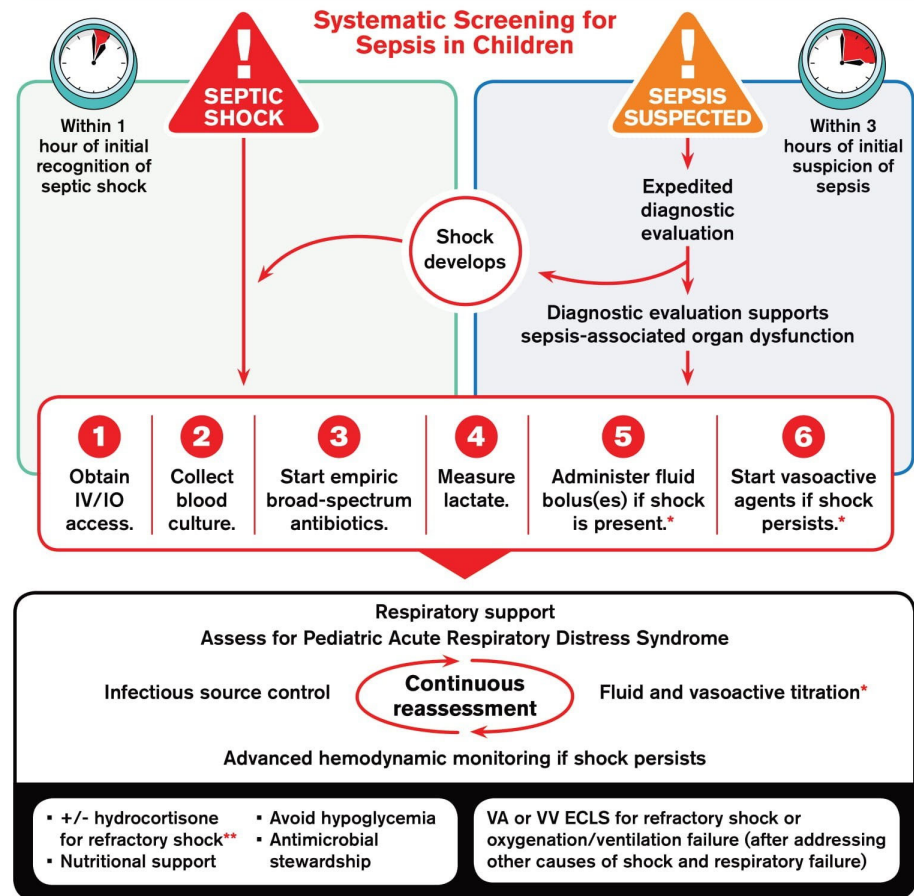
- We suggest using **advanced hemodynamic variables**, when available, in addition to bedside clinical variables to guide the resuscitation of children with septic shock or other sepsis-associated organ dysfunction (weak recommendation, low quality of evidence).
- We suggest using **trends in blood lactate levels**, in addition to clinical assessment, to guide resuscitation of children with septic shock and other sepsis-associated organ dysfunction (weak recommendation, very low quality of evidence).

Catecholamine Refractory Shock

- We suggest **against** using intravenous hydrocortisone to treat children with septic shock if adequate fluid resuscitation and vasopressor therapy are able to restore hemodynamic stability (weak recommendation, low quality of evidence).
- We suggest that either intravenous **hydrocortisone or no hydrocortisone may be used** if adequate fluid resuscitation and vasopressor therapy are not able to restore hemodynamic stability (weak recommendation, low quality of evidence).
- Patients with adrenal insufficiency ?

Initial Resuscitation Algorithm for Children

Surviving Sepsis Campaign



*See fluid and vasoactive algorithm. Note: Fluid bolus should be omitted from bundle if a) fluid overload is present or b) it is a low-resource setting without hypotension. Fluid in mL/kg should be dosed as ideal body weight.

**Hydrocortisone may produce benefit or harm.

Weiss, S. L. *et al.* Surviving Sepsis Campaign International Guidelines for the Management of Septic Shock and Sepsis-Associated Organ Dysfunction in Children. *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine* | *Society of Critical Care Medicine* **21**, e52 (2020).

Take Home Messages

- Pediatric sepsis is often difficult to recognize
- Standardized care reduces variation, waste and error
- Sepsis bundles improve pediatric sepsis recognition and treatment

**“COULD
IT BE
SEPSIS?”**

**IT'S A SIMPLE QUESTION,
BUT IT COULD SAVE LIVES.**