

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: REFERENCE LIST

# Screening Triage Tools and Management Algorithms for Adult Sepsis Patients: Clinical Utility and Guidelines

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## Research Questions

1. What is the clinical utility of screening triage tools and/or management algorithms in adult patients in the emergency department with suspected sepsis?
2. What is the clinical utility of screening triage tools and/or management algorithms in adult inpatients with suspected sepsis?
3. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of screening triage tools and/or management algorithms in adult inpatients with suspected sepsis?

## Key Findings

One health technology assessment, six systematic reviews (two with meta-analyses), one randomized controlled trial, and 11 non-randomized controlled studies were identified regarding the clinical utility of screening triage tools and management algorithms in adult patients with suspected sepsis. Six evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of screening triage tools and management algorithms in adult patients with suspected sepsis.

## Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including Medline, the Cochrane Library, the University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were sepsis diagnosis/treatment and hospitalized adult patients. No filters were applied to limit the search results for research questions 1 and 2. A methodological filter was applied to limit retrieval to clinical practice guidelines for question 3. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2014 and August 7, 2019. Internet links were provided, where available.

## Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

<b>Population</b>	Q1: Adult patients presenting in the emergency department with suspected sepsis Q2-3: Adult inpatients with suspected sepsis
<b>Intervention</b>	Q1-3: Screening triage tools and/or management algorithms
<b>Comparator</b>	No screening tools and/or algorithm management

<b>Outcomes</b>	Q1-2: Clinical utility (i.e., patient management [e.g., time to treatment], patient direct outcomes [e.g., sepsis-related mortality, length of hospital stay, readmission]) Q3: Guidelines
<b>Study Designs</b>	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized-controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines

## Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One health technology assessment,<sup>1</sup> three systematic reviews (two with meta-analyses),<sup>2,6,7</sup> one randomized controlled trial,<sup>8</sup> and nine non-randomized controlled studies<sup>10-13,15-19</sup> were identified regarding the clinical utility of screening triage tools and management algorithms in adult patients in the emergency department with suspected sepsis. Three systematic reviews<sup>3-5</sup> and two non-randomized controlled studies<sup>9,14</sup> were identified regarding the clinical utility of screening triage tools and management algorithms in adult inpatients with suspected sepsis. Six evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of screening triage tools and management algorithms in adult inpatients with suspected sepsis.<sup>20-25</sup>

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

## Health Technology Assessments

1. Westwood M, Ramaekers B, Whiting P, et al. Procalcitonin testing to guide antibiotic therapy for the treatment of sepsis in intensive care settings and for suspected bacterial infection in emergency department settings: a systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis. *Health Technol Assess.* 2015 Nov;19(96):v-xxv, 1-236. [PubMed: PM26569153](#)

## Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

2. Sungkar Y, Considine J, Hutchinson A. Implementation of guidelines for sepsis management in emergency departments: a systematic review. *Australas Emerg Care.* 2018 Nov;21(4):111-120. [PubMed: PM30998886](#)
3. Warttig S, Alderson P, Evans DJ, Lewis SR, Kourbeti IS, Smith AF. Automated monitoring compared to standard care for the early detection of sepsis in critically ill patients. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2018 06 25;6:CD012404. [PubMed: PM29938790](#)
4. Alberto L, Marshall AP, Walker R, Aitken LM. Screening for sepsis in general hospitalized patients: a systematic review. *J Hosp Infect.* 2017 Aug;96(4):305-315. [PubMed: PM28506711](#)

5. Andriolo BN, Andriolo RB, Salomao R, Atallah AN. Effectiveness and safety of procalcitonin evaluation for reducing mortality in adults with sepsis, severe sepsis or septic shock. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2017 Jan 18;1:CD010959.  
[PubMed: PM28099689](#)
6. Coccolini F, Sartelli M, Catena F, Ceresoli M, Montori G, Ansaloni L. Early goal-directed treatment versus standard care in management of early septic shock: meta-analysis of randomized trials. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2016 11;81(5):971-978.  
[PubMed: PM27602898](#)
7. Wira CR, Dodge K, Sather J, Dziura J. Meta-analysis of protocolized goal-directed hemodynamic optimization for the management of severe sepsis and septic shock in the emergency department. *West J Emerg Med*. 2014 Feb;15(1):51-59.  
[PubMed: PM24696750](#)

## Randomized Controlled Trials

8. Kuan WS, Ibrahim I, Leong BS, et al. Emergency department management of sepsis patients: a randomized, goal-oriented, noninvasive sepsis trial. *Ann Emerg Med*. 2016 Mar;67(3):367-378.e363.  
[PubMed: PM26475246](#)

## Non-Randomized Studies

9. Gluck E, Nguyen HB, Yalamanchili K, et al. Real-world use of procalcitonin and other biomarkers among sepsis hospitalizations in the United States: a retrospective, observational study. *PLoS ONE*. 2018;13(10):e0205924.  
[PubMed: PM30332466](#)
10. Machado SM, Wilson EH, Elliott JO, Jordan K. Impact of a telemedicine eICU cart on sepsis management in a community hospital emergency department. *J Telemed Telecare*. 2018 Apr;24(3):202-208.  
[PubMed: PM29278979](#)
11. Quinten VM, van Meurs M, Wolffensperger AE, Ter Maaten JC, Ligtenberg JJM. Sepsis patients in the emergency department: stratification using the Clinical Impression Score, Predisposition, Infection, Response and Organ dysfunction score or quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment score? *Eur J Emerg Med*. 2018 Oct;25(5):328-334.  
[PubMed: PM28338533](#)
12. Shah T, Sterk E, Rech MA. Emergency department sepsis screening tool decreases time to antibiotics in patients with sepsis. *Am J Emerg Med*. 2018 10;36(10):1745-1748.  
[PubMed: PM29395762](#)
13. McColl T, Gatien M, Calder L, et al. Implementation of an emergency department sepsis bundle and system redesign: a process improvement initiative. *CJEM*. 2017 Mar;19(2):112-121.  
[PubMed: PM27608524](#)

14. Prasad PA, Shea ER, Shiboski S, Sullivan MC, Gonzales R, Shimabukuro D. Relationship between a sepsis intervention bundle and in-hospital mortality among hospitalized patients: a retrospective analysis of real-world data. *Anesth Analg*. 2017 Oct;125(2):507-513.  
[PubMed: PM28514322](#)
15. Romero B, Fry M, Roche M. The impact of evidence-based sepsis guidelines on emergency department clinical practice: a pre-post medical record audit. *J Clin Nurs*. 2017 Nov;26(21-22):3588-3596.  
[PubMed: PM28071865](#)
16. Rosenqvist M, Fagerstrand E, Lanbeck P, Melander O, Akesson P. Sepsis Alert - a triage model that reduces time to antibiotics and length of hospital stay. *Infect Dis*. 2017 Jul;49(7):507-513.  
[PubMed: PM28276800](#)
17. Idrees M, Macdonald SP, Kodali K. Sepsis Early Alert Tool: early recognition and timely management in the emergency department. *Emerg Med Australas*. 2016 Aug;28(4):399-403.  
[PubMed: PM27147126](#)
18. Narayanan N, Gross AK, Pintens M, Fee C, MacDougall C. Effect of an electronic medical record alert for severe sepsis among ED patients. *Am J Emerg Med*. 2016 Feb;34(2):185-188.  
[PubMed: PM26573784](#)
19. Gatewood MO, Wemple M, Greco S, Kritek PA, Durvasula R. A quality improvement project to improve early sepsis care in the emergency department. *BMJ Qual Saf*. 2015 Dec;24(12):787-795.  
[PubMed: PM26251506](#)

## Guidelines and Recommendations

20. Lamontagne F, Rochweg B, Lytvyn L, et al. Corticosteroid therapy for sepsis: a clinical practice guideline. *BMJ*. 2018 Aug 10;362:k3284.  
[PubMed: PM30097460](#)
21. Levy MM, Evans LE, Rhodes A. The Surviving Sepsis Campaign bundle: 2018 update. *Crit Care Med*. 2018;46(6):997-1000. Available from:  
<http://www.survivingsepsis.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/Surviving-Sepsis-Campaign-Hour-1-Bundle-2018.pdf>. Accessed 2019 Aug 12  
[PubMed: PM29767636](#)

## Recommendations Not Specified in Abstract

22. Rhodes A, Evans LE, Alhazzani W, et al. Surviving sepsis campaign: international guidelines for management of sepsis and septic shock: 2016. *Crit Care Med*. 2017 Mar;45(3):486-552.  
[PubMed: PM28098591](#)

*All Settings*

23. Tavaré A, O'Flynn N. Recognition, diagnosis, and early management of sepsis: NICE guideline. *Br J Gen Pract*. 2017 04;67(657):185-186.  
[PubMed: PM28360070](#)  
*See: "Initial assessment", "Management"*
24. Howell MD, Davis AM. Management of sepsis and septic shock. *JAMA*. 2017;317(8):847-848. Available from:  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2598892?resultClick=1> Accessed 2019 Aug 12  
[PubMed:PM28114603](#)  
*See: Managing infection*
25. Oda S, Aibiki M, Ikeda T, et al. The Japanese guidelines for the management of sepsis. *J Intensive Care*. 2014;2(1):55.  
[PubMed: PM25705413](#)

## Appendix — Further Information

### Previous CADTH Reports

26. Recognition and diagnosis of sepsis in adults: evidence-based guidelines. Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2018: <https://cadth.ca/recognition-and-diagnosis-sepsis-adults-evidence-based-guidelines-0>. Accessed 2019 Aug 12

### Non-Randomized Studies

#### *Alternative Setting*

27. Haydar S, Spanier M, Weems P, Wood S, Strout T. Comparison of QSOFA score and SIRS criteria as screening mechanisms for emergency department sepsis. *Am J Emerg Med*. 2017 Nov;35(11):1730-1733.  
[PubMed: PM28712645](#)

### Review Articles

28. Makic MBF, Bridges E. CE: Managing sepsis and septic shock: current guidelines and definitions. *Am J Nurs*. 2018 Feb;118(2):34-39.  
[PubMed: PM29329118](#):
29. Shetty A, Macdonald SP, Keijzers G, et al. Review article: sepsis in the emergency department - Part 2: Investigations and monitoring. *Emerg Med Australas*. 2018 02;30(1):4-12.  
[PubMed: PM29341498](#)