

Supplementary Methods 2. Definition of Sepsis-3 criteria and qSOFA

According to the Sepsis-3 criteria, sepsis was defined when a Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score ≥ 2 points was increased (i.e., SOFA score at emergency room [ER] visit – SOFA score before ER visit) and infection was clinically diagnosed.¹ Upon initial ER visits (i.e., no prior SOFA scores), the baseline SOFA scores defaulted to 0 by definition.¹ Septic shock was defined as hypotension requiring vasopressor use to maintain mean arterial pressures ≥ 65 mmHg and serum lactate level >18 mg/dL, despite adequate

fluid resuscitation.¹ The qSOFA was considered “positive” if at least two of the following criteria were met: alteration of consciousness, respiratory rate ≥ 22 /min, and systolic blood pressure ≤ 100 mmHg.¹ Altered mental state was determined as scores <15 by the Glasgow Coma Scale.¹ In patients accruing second infections and/or new admissions for infections during the study period, only the first episodes qualified for analysis.

Supplementary Reference

1. Singer M, Deutschman CS, Seymour CW, Shankar-Hari M, Anane D, Bauer M, et al. The third international consensus defini-

tions for sepsis and septic shock (sepsis-3). *JAMA* 2016;315:801-810.