

Abstract

There are more than 750,000 occurrences of sepsis annually with mortality rates 30 to 40% for severe sepsis and 50 to 60% for septic shock (Angus et al., 2001; R. Phillip Dellinger et al., 2008). Sepsis is a complex disease with numerous guidelines and most recently sepsis bundle treatment regimes have been recommended. Despite these measures and evidence supporting early goal directed therapy (EGDT), identifying sepsis remains problematic within both the emergency department and critical care unit settings. Efforts must focus on early recognition and identification of sepsis so aggressive intervention of EGDT can be implemented to assist in the decrease of both patient morbidity and mortality. The purpose of this pilot project was to develop a rapid sepsis identification and treatment protocol originating in the Emergency Department (ED) leading to timely transfer to the critical care unit. Furthermore, the intensivist team coordinated the EGDT in an effort to optimize meeting the goals of most recent recommended guidelines. The emergency department nursing and medical staff collaborated to identify potential sepsis patients >18 years of age using a predetermined sepsis checklist. As potential sepsis patients were recognized, the fast sepsis protocol was used for prompt intervention with appropriate diagnostic data, intravenous fluid bolus, and notification of the critical care nursing and intensivist team for a fast sepsis protocol admission leading to urgent transfer for further review for EGDT interventions.