**Figure 2**

- **Assessed for eligibility**

**Included when:**
- Patient in the ICU AND
- Age ≥ 18 years AND
- Fulfil the criteria for septic shock AND
- Have Hb ≤ 9 g/dl (5.6 mM) AND
- Consent obtainable from patient or proxy

**Excluded when:**
- Wish against transfusion OR
- Previous SAR with blood products OR
- Acute coronary syndrome OR
- Presence of life threatening bleeding OR
- RBC transfusion during current ICU admission OR
- Withdrawal from active therapy or brain death OR
- Acute burn injuries regardless of severity or total burn surface area OR
- Lack of informed consent (depending on national law)

**Enrolment**

**YES**

**Randomisation**

**Allocation:**
Until discharge from ICU, death or day 90 from randomisation

**YES**

**Transfused when Hb ≤ 7.0 g/dl (4.3 mM)**
Pt transfused with 1 RBC unit at a time followed by new Hb point of care testing within 3 hours or before another transfusion is initiated.

**Transfused when Hb ≤ 9.0 g/dl (5.6 mM)**
Pt transfused with 1 RBC unit at a time followed by new Hb point of care testing within 3 hours or before another transfusion is initiated.

**Follow-Up**

- **Discharge from ICU**
- **Primary outcome:**
  - Mortality at day 90
- **Secondary outcome:**
  - Mortality at 28-day and 6 months and 12 months
  - Life support at day 5, 14 and 28 post-randomisation
  - Severe adverse reactions
  - Ischaemic events in the ICU
  - Length of stay in ICU and hospital
  - Days in need of life support among survivors
  - Health-related quality of life