Figure 1  Flow of participants through the trial

Assessed for eligibility (n = 299)

- Moribund, life expectancy <4 days (n = 5)
- Age < 18 years (n = 14)
- Creatinine clearance < 0.5 ml/sec (n = 33)
- Immunosuppression (n = 7)

Randomized (n = 240)

Allocated to Infusion group (n = 120)

- Two patients died within four days (n = 2)
- De-escalation, adjustment or termination of antimicrobial therapy (n = 10)
- Transfer to other hospital (n = 2)

Allocated to Bolus group (n = 120)

- One patient died within four days (n = 1)
- De-escalation, adjustment or termination of antimicrobial therapy (n = 11)

Clinically evaluable (n = 106)

- Pathogen not identified (n = 10)

Clinically evaluable (n = 108)

- Pathogen not identified (n = 6)

Microbiologically evaluable (n = 96)

Microbiologically evaluable (n = 102)