Reviewer’s report

Title: Management and Outcomes of Patients Presenting with Sepsis and Septic Shock to the Emergency Department during Nursing Handover: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Version: 0 Date: 09 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Abele Donati

Reviewer's report:

The Authors aimed to examine in a retrospective cohort study the management and outcomes of patients presenting with sepsis and septic shock at the ED during nursing handover.

The study is of some interest but I have some concerns:

Which is the handover time? Just between 6-8 AM and, seems 6-8 PM? Generally during the 24 hours there are 3 handover times, in your hospital just two? Please this needs to be better clarified.

The Authors have identified time of antibiotic therapy, measurements of blood lactate, time to obtain blood culture and mortality as indicators. Are these enough?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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