

Introduction

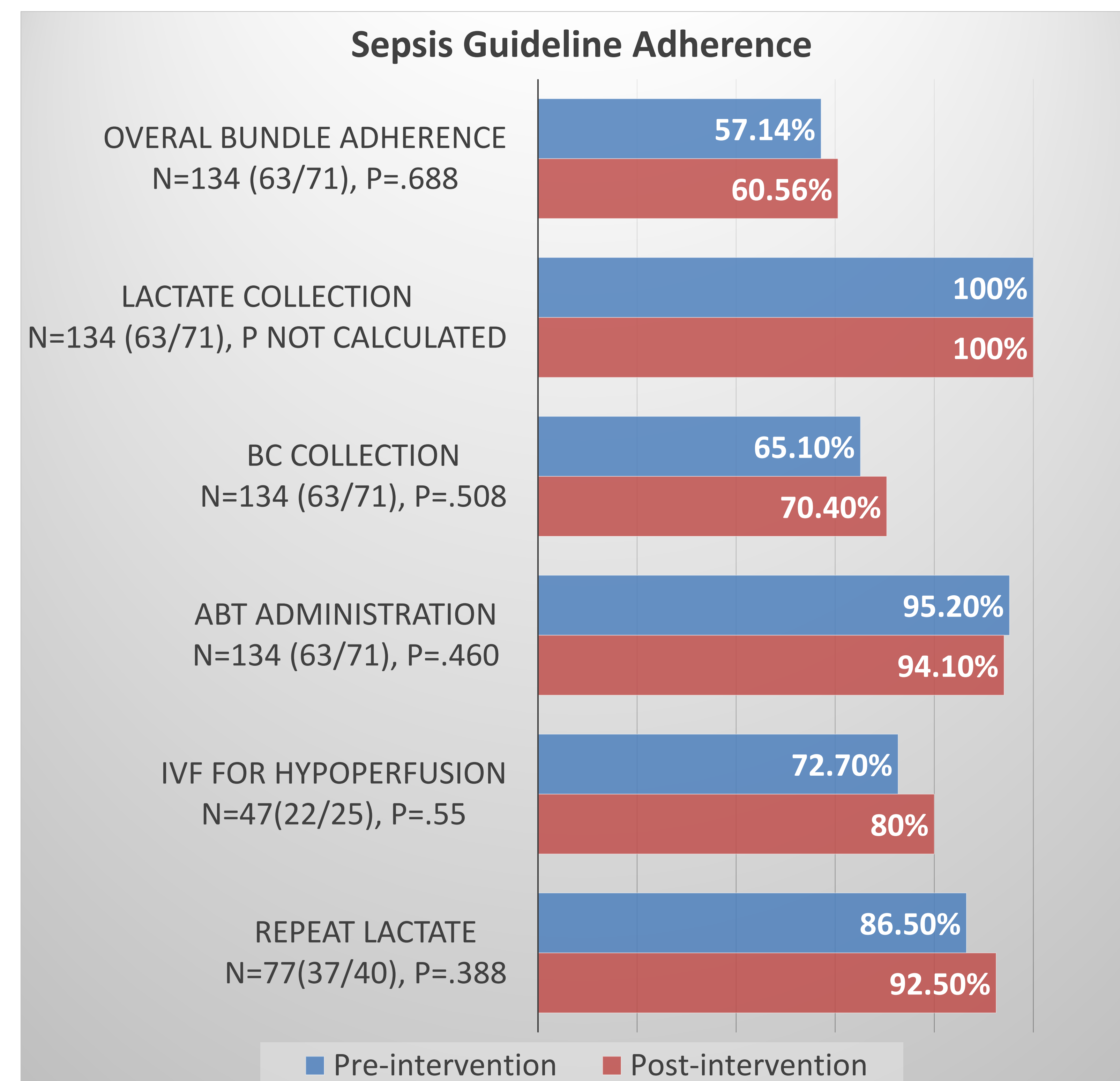
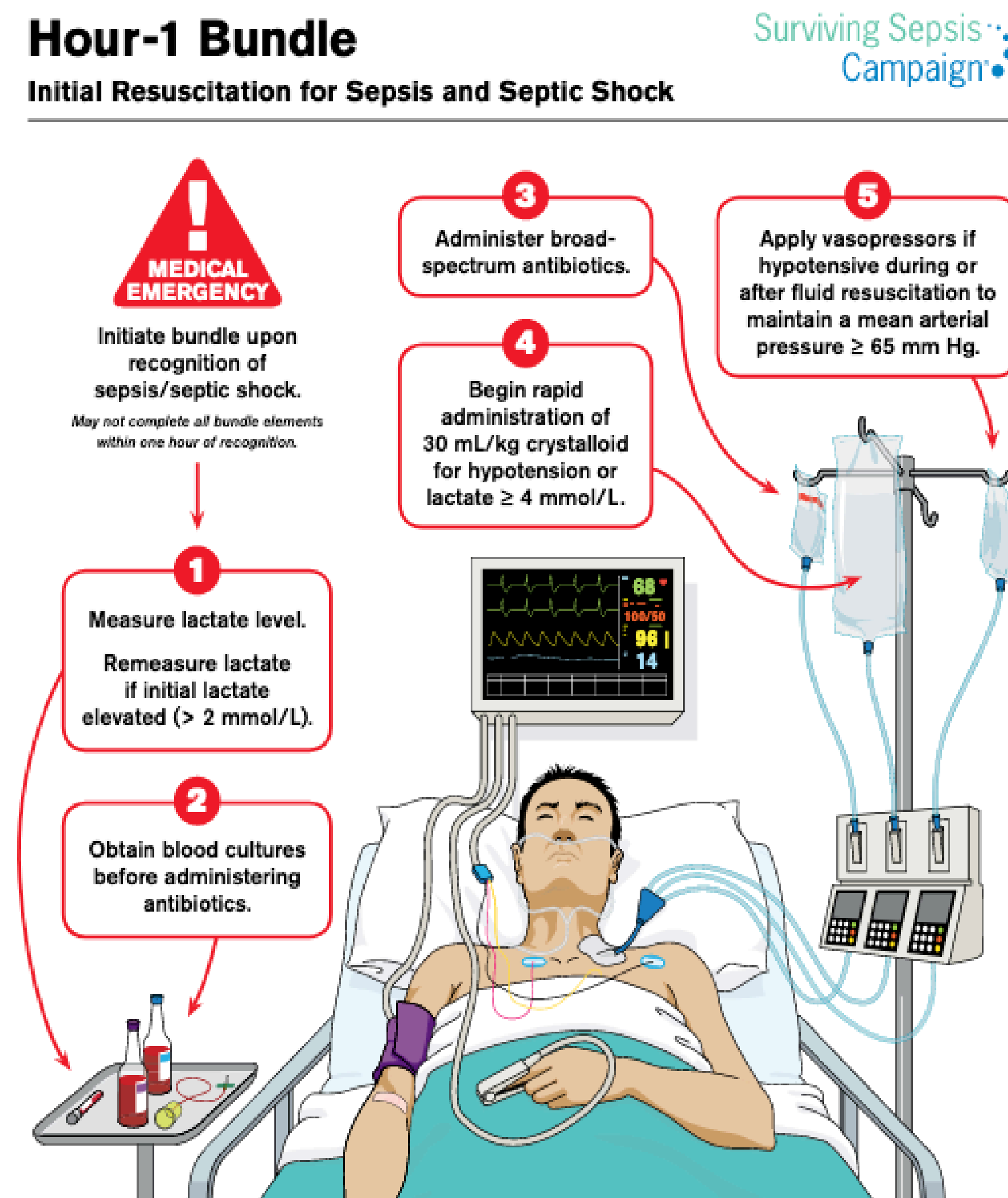
- Sepsis: The dysregulated immune response to infection.
- Sepsis guidelines: EBP guidelines published by Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC) and adopted by CMS as core measure.
- Improved adherence to guidelines shown to improve outcomes in septic patients
- Nurse champion: Associated with improved adoption of evidence into practice

Objective

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the nurse champion role in improving the rate of adherence to sepsis guidelines in the ED

Methods

- Pre- and post-intervention quality improvement project
- Population: patients evaluated in the adult ED and diagnosed with sepsis
- Sample: All charts included in QI data
- QI data for two months pre-intervention collected
- Six Sepsis nurse champions (SNCs) were recruited from ED staff nurses. Education was provided on the role.
- SNCs reviewed QI data and presented it at shift huddles.
- SNC acted as resource to staff on sepsis guidelines
- SNCs provided education at annual mandatory education sessions
- SNCs attended committee meetings
- SNCs collaborated with physician sepsis liaison, CNS and Sepsis committee to develop a documentation audit tool pending implementation
- After one month of implementation, post-intervention data was reviewed



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Discussion

- There was no statistically significant change in rate of overall adherence or in adherence to any of the components
- There was improvement in overall sepsis bundle adherence and in BC, IVF, and repeat lactate components
- There was no change in initial lactate collection
- There was a decrease in rate of antibiotic administration

Limitations

- The COVID-19 pandemic emerged after preintervention data was collected and evolved during the postintervention period.
- The viral pandemic may have affected clinical decision in treatment as the SSC guidelines were primarily geared towards treatment of sepsis from bacterial pathogens
- Education sessions were canceled due to pandemic
- Implementation of sepsis documentation tool was delayed due to pandemic

Conclusion

- Further testing may be needed to determine effectiveness of the SNC. External factors may have skewed the results in this project
- Significant changes could indicate the utility of SNCs to improve outcomes by improving adherence to guidelines
- Adherence to sepsis guidelines is a core measure monitored by CMS. Improved performance, assisted by a SNC role, could reflect on the hospitals standing a provider of quality care

References

Macharia, E. (2020). *Implementation of a nurse champion role to improve sepsis guideline adherence in the emergency department* (unpublished DNP project). Rutgers. Newark, NJ.
Surviving Sepsis Campaign. (2019, February 10). *Hour-1 Bundle*. Retrieved from <http://www.survivingsepsis.org/Bundles/Pages/default.aspx> University