

**Additional file 1**

**Trial criteria for septic shock [21]**

**(1) AT LEAST TWO SYSTEMIC INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE SYNDROME (SIRS) CRITERIA:**

1. **CORE TEMPERATURE  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$**  . (Core temperature is rectal, urinary bladder, central line, or tympanic). If oral, inguinal or axillary temperatures are used, add  $0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  to the measured value. Hypothermia  $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$  must be confirmed by core temperature. Use the most deranged value recorded **in the 24 hours before randomisation**.
2. **HEART RATE  $\geq 90$  beats/minute**. If patient has an atrial arrhythmia, record the ventricular rate. If patients have a known medical condition or are receiving treatment that would prevent tachycardia (for example, heart block or beta blockers), they must meet two of the remaining three SIRS criteria. Use the most deranged value recorded **in the 24 hours before randomisation**.
3. **MECHANICAL VENTILATION** for an acute process or respiratory rate  $\geq 20$  breaths per minute or a  $\text{PaCO}_2 < 4.3 \text{ kPa}$  (32 mmHg). Use the most deranged respiratory rate or  $\text{PaCO}_2$  recorded **in the 24 hours before randomisation**.
4. **WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT of  $\geq 12 \times 10^9/\text{l}$  or  $\leq 4 \times 10^9/\text{l}$** . Use the most deranged value recorded **in the 24 hours before randomisation**.

**AND**

**(2) SUSPECTED OR VERIFIED FOCUS OF INFECTION** as either:

(i) An organism grown in blood or sterile site

OR

(ii) An abscess or infected tissue (e.g. pneumonia, peritonitis, urinary tract, vascular line infection, soft tissue, etc).

**AND**

**(3) HYPOTENSION** (Systolic blood pressure  $\leq 90$  mmHg or MAP  $\leq 70$  mmHg) despite fluid therapy OR **VASOPRESSOR/INTROPE** infusion to maintain blood pressure.