





## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

# Clinical practice guideline on the management of septic shock and sepsis-associated organ dysfunction in children: Endorsement by the Scandinavian Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine

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## Abstract

**Background:** The Clinical Practice Committee of the Scandinavian Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine endorses the clinical practice guideline *Surviving Sepsis Campaign International Guidelines for the Management of Septic Shock and Sepsis-Associated Organ Dysfunction in Children*. The guideline can serve as a useful decision aid for clinicians managing children with suspected and confirmed septic shock and sepsis-associated organ dysfunction.

## KEYWORDS

AGREE II, children, clinical practice guideline, paediatrics, sepsis, septic shock

## 1 | BACKGROUND

Sepsis remains a leading global cause of mortality and morbidity in children.<sup>1</sup> Early deaths in paediatric sepsis are often caused by refractory shock, whereas later deaths are more attributable to multiple organ dysfunction syndrome.<sup>2</sup> Anaesthesiologists and intensivists are regularly involved in the identification, resuscitation

and management of children with sepsis. In February 2020, the *Surviving Sepsis Campaign International Guidelines for the Management of Septic Shock and Sepsis-Associated Organ Dysfunction in Children* was published.<sup>3</sup>

The Scandinavian Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (SSAI) Clinical Practice Committee (CPC) decided to appraise this guideline for possible endorsement to guide Scandinavian

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anaesthesiologists and intensivists in the identification, resuscitation and management of children with sepsis.

## 2 | METHODS

The SSAI CPC assessed the guideline using the Appraisal of Guidelines for REsearch and Evaluation (AGREE) II tool,<sup>4</sup> as per the outlined process for endorsement of non-SSAI guidelines.<sup>5</sup>

## 3 | RESULTS

### 3.1 | Quality appraisal (AGREE II)

Five SSAI CPC members completed the appraisal. One member co-authored the guideline and was excluded from the evaluation, as per the SSAI endorsement process.<sup>5</sup>

The individual domain totals were: (1) Scope and purpose 91%; (2) Stakeholder involvement 89%; (3) Rigor of development 85%; (4) Clarity of presentation 82%; (5) Applicability 63%; (6) Editorial independence 95%; and (7) Overall assessment 85%.

The breakdown of the individual appraisers (de-identified) is available in the Supplementary Material.

## 4 | DISCUSSION

This clinical practice guideline on the management of septic shock and sepsis-associated organ dysfunction in children received overall high ratings on all domains with acceptable agreement between the SSAI CPC appraisers. We believe this guideline can serve as a useful decision aid for clinicians managing children with suspected and confirmed septic shock and sepsis-associated organ dysfunction.

## 5 | CONCLUSION

The SSAI CPC endorses the clinical practice guideline *Surviving Sepsis Campaign International Guidelines for the Management of Septic Shock and Sepsis-Associated Organ Dysfunction in Children*.<sup>3</sup>

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No Clinical Practice Committee member had direct conflicts of interest. MHM was a co-author of the guideline assessed and did not participate in the AGREE II assessment, as per the SSAI endorsement process. No other authors had indirect conflicts of interest.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

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