



Considered judgement on quality of evidence

<p>Key question: Should patients with severe CAP receive IV antibiotics?</p>	
<p>1. Volume of evidence <i>Comment here on any issues concerning the quantity of evidence available on this topic and its methodological quality.</i></p>	
<p>Up to end of 2006 Since the publication of the BTS CAP Guidelines the Surviving Sepsis campaign has published guidelines on the management of patients with severe sepsis from any cause. 2007-10 No new papers identified.</p>	
<p>2. Applicability <i>Comment here on the extent to which the evidence is directly applicable to the NHS in Scotland.</i></p>	
<p>The evidence is applicable to the NHS in Scotland Patients with severe CAP have severe sepsis by definition (sepsis plus evidence of vital organ dysfunction) so the Surviving Sepsis recommendations are relevant.</p>	
<p>3. Generalisability <i>Comment here on how reasonable it is to generalise from the results of the studies used as evidence to the target population for this guideline.</i></p>	
<p>The evidence is generalisable</p>	
<p>4. Consistency <i>Comment here on the degree of consistency demonstrated by the available of evidence. Where there are conflicting results, indicate how the group formed a judgement as to the overall direction of the evidence</i></p>	
<p>The recommendations for severe sepsis are consistent with BTS recommendations for severe CAP. The current BTS guideline recommendation is: parenteral antibiotics are recommended in those with severe CAP, regardless of the patient's ability or otherwise to take oral medication [C]. This is to ensure prompt high blood and lung concentrations of antibiotic. The Surviving Sepsis recommendation is: intravenous antibiotic therapy should be started within the first hour of recognition of severe sepsis, after appropriate cultures have been obtained. (grade E)</p>	
<p>5. Clinical impact <i>Comment here on the potential clinical impact that the intervention in question might have – e.g. size of patient population; magnitude of effect; relative benefit over other management options; resource implications; balance of risk and benefit.</i></p>	
<p>Severe CAP is a common condition with a high mortality (20-30%)</p>	
<p>6. Other factors <i>Indicate here any other factors that you took into account when assessing the evidence base.</i></p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p>7. Evidence statement <i>Please summarise the development group's synthesis of the evidence relating to this key question, taking all the above factors into account, and indicate the evidence level which applies.</i></p>	<p>Evidence level</p>
<p>Patients with severe pneumonia should receive IV antibiotics</p>	<p>2⁺</p>
<p>8. Recommendation <i>What recommendation(s) does the guideline development group draw from this evidence? Please indicate the grade of recommendation(s) and any dissenting opinion within the group.</i></p>	<p>Grade of recommendation</p>
<p>Patients with severe CAP receive IV antibiotics.</p>	<p>C</p>