Supplementary Figure 1. Patient Flow Diagram of the trial

Assessed for eligibility (N=1203)

Randomised (N=1200)

Excluded (N=3)
Reasons: consent form not signed (2), family withdrew consent (1)

Allocated to ‘high exposure’ (N=604)
Received ‘high exposure’ (N=603)
Reasons: 1 patient died before any procalcitonin measurement was taken

Allocated to ‘standard exposure’ (N=596)
Received ‘standard exposure’ (N=594)
Reasons: 2 patients died before any procalcitonin measurements were taken

Completed 28 days follow up (N=408)
Did not complete 28 days (N=198)
Reasons: lost to follow up (n=8) died (n=190)

Completed 28 days follow up (N=394)
Did not complete 28 days (N=202)
Reasons: lost to follow up (n=11) died (n=191)

Analysed (N = 604)
Excluded (N = 0)

Analysed (N = 596)
Excluded (N = 0)