### Appendix 1: Core set of adjustment factors

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Potential confounders identified</th>
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| 1. Preliminary searches to identify potential prognostic factors on mortality in patients with sepsis | 1. PubMed search: (sepsis[Title]) AND "prognostic factor"[Title]  
2. Embase: 'prognostic factor':ti AND 'sepsis':ti  
3. Search in Uptodate  
4. Initial discussion with review team members | 1. Hypertriglyceridemia  
2. Positive fluid balance  
3. Red cell distribution width  
4. Duration of SIRS before organ failure  
5. Heart-type fatty acid-binding protein  
6. D-dimer  
7. Low serum level of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol  
8. Serum N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide level  
9. Immunosuppression  
10. Cancer  
11. Liver diseases  
12. Alcohol dependence  
13. Non-urinary source of infection  
14. Inappropriate or late antibiotic coverage |
| 2. Identify prognostic models for mortality in patients with sepsis | We considered factors included in the SOFA prognostic model | 1. PaO2  
2. FiO2  
3. On mechanical ventilation  
4. Platelets, ×10⁹/µL  
5. Glasgow Coma Scale  
6. Bilirubin, mg/dL (µmol/L)  
7. Mean arterial pressure OR administration of vasoactive agents required  
8. Creatinine, mg/dL (µmol/L) (or urine output) |
| 3. Final list of key additional prognostic factors | We defined the final list of core set of adjustment factors by consensus | 1. Age  
2. Severity score at baseline (SOFA, SAPS II, APACHE II score)  
3. Comorbidities: immunosuppression, pulmonary diseases, cancer, liver diseases, alcohol dependence  
4. Non-urinary source of infection  
5. Inappropriate or late antibiotic coverage |