Dear ACEP Member:

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is very pleased to send you the enclosed materials on behalf of the College and its Section of Critical Care Medicine. The College, through the section, is actively involved in representing emergency medicine in the Surviving Sepsis Campaign (SSC), a coalition of international organizations seeking to increase survival rates among severe sepsis and septic shock patients.

The two enclosed items are:

- Surviving Sepsis Pocket Guidelines for treatment of severe sepsis and septic shock developed by the SSC;

The guidelines represent an historic effort of the following 11 international societies: American Association of Critical Care Nurses; American College of Chest Physicians; American College of Emergency Physicians; American Thoracic Society; Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society; European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases; European Society of Intensive Care Medicine; European Respiratory Society; International Sepsis Forum; Surgical Infection Society; Society of Critical Care Medicine.

The enclosed article describes ACEP’s representation of emergency medicine in this global initiative to reduce sepsis mortality. Included is a description of the third phase which involves collaboration with the Institute of Healthcare Improvement. As part of the third phase, ACEP has constructed a website (www.ACEP.org/sepsis) with educational information and CME opportunities.

We hope you will find these materials helpful as many septic patients first appear in the emergency department seeking care and may remain there until a bed is available in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). We encourage you to use the pocket guidelines, to let us know your thoughts about them and to update us regarding any other information you might find useful in this increasingly important area of patient care.

We especially want to thank Edwards LifeSciences for providing a grant that was used to mail these materials to you.

Sincerely,

Frederick C. Blum, MD, FACEP, FAAP
President

Copy: ACEP Board of Directors
Council Officers