

COVID-19 RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

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Managing ICU surge during the COVID-19 crisis: rapid guidelines

The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed tremendous pressure on healthcare systems worldwide due to the sudden increase in demand and the need to rapidly increase the capacity and access to resources. The most affected patients require treatment in intensive care units (ICUs) which are often operating at near maximum capacity under normal circumstances. During pandemics, ICUs need

to be managed to accommodate the surge in patient numbers. Therefore, there is a need to develop guidelines to manage ICUs during pandemics, based on best available scientific evidence, to help healthcare systems to be well prepared and ensure the efficient utilization of the scarce and precious resources against COVID-19.

The “Surviving Sepsis Campaign COVID-19”, formed a “Guidelines Steering Committee” composed of 25 experts. The developed guidelines addressed the following: planning in response to the crisis surge; crisis surge response strategies; triage, and supporting families, and staff. The Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) methodology was utilized to assess the confidence in the estimate of the effect to support a recommendation. The guidelines included a total of 14 recommendations of varying strengths.

Publication: Aziz S, Arabi YM, Alhazzani W, Evans L, Citerio G, Fischkoff K, Salluh J, Meyfroidt G, Alshamsi F, Oczkowski S, Azoulay E, Price A, Burry L, Dzierba A, Benintende A, Morgan J, Grasselli G, Rhodes A, Moller MH, Chu L, Schwedhelm S, Lowe JJ, Bin D, Christian MD. Managing ICU surge during the COVID-19 crisis: rapid guidelines. *Intensive Care Medicine* 2020. (DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00134-020-06092-5>)

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