

# Large number of patients admitted through ED with sepsis not given a formal diagnosis code

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A large number of patients admitted through the emergency department with severe sepsis or septic shock are not given a specific International Classification of Disease (ICD) code used around the world to collect data on epidemiology, morbidity and mortality statistics and reimbursement. According to research being presented at CHEST World Congress this month, patients who are identified with the ICD code often had a higher ICU admission rate and longer length of stay when compared to patients identified by clinical criteria only.

Physicians

Researches analyzed more than 7,000 patient encounters with [severe sepsis](#) or septic shock, and found that 68% of patients with severe sepsis without shock did not receive an ICD diagnosis code. Patients assigned codes of severe sepsis had a higher mortality, ICU admission rate, and hospital length of stay when compared to patients identified by clinical criteria alone.

"This analysis raises many questions and adds to the growing body of evidence regarding identification of sepsis and [septic shock](#), and implications for treatment and prediction of outcomes," said Amanda Deis, lead study author, University of Kansas School of Medicine, "we're also curious about what motivates clinicians' decisions to use ICD codes and whether that has an effect on their care."

**More information:** Amanda Deis, Diagnosis Code vs Clinical Criteria: Variable Outcomes in Patients With Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock, *Chest*, /04/2016, [linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrie ... ii/S0012369216008114](http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0012369216008114)

Provided by American College of Chest

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