Antimicrobial stewardship: 1a-Median time to first dose of antibiotics for patients with suspected bacterial meningitis, or for actual or suspected severe sepsis

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# Antimicrobial stewardship: 1a-Median time to first dose of antibiotics for patients with suspected bacterial meningitis, or for actual or suspected severe sepsis

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Indicator |
| Indicator type: | Indicator |
| Short name: | Indicator 1a-Median time to first dose of antibiotics for patients with suspected bacterial meningitis, or for actual or suspected severe sepsis |
| METEOR identifier: | 612218 |
| Registration status: | [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 12/09/2016  [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Retired 25/01/2022 |
| Description: | Median time from first clinical contact to the first dose of antibiotics for patients with suspected [**bacterial meningitis**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/629062), or for patients requiring admission to an intensive care unit for actual or suspected [**severe sepsis.**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/629064) |
| Rationale: | A delay in starting antibiotic treatment for life-threatening infections is associated with increased morbidity and mortality (Antibiotic Expert Group 2014). |
| Indicator set: | [Clinical care standard indicators: antimicrobial stewardship](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/612216)  [Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/18), Retired 25/01/2022  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 12/09/2016 |
| Outcome area: | [Life-threatening conditions](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/624344)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 12/09/2016 |

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| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Computation description: | Time is in hours and minutes, i.e. HH:MM.  The median value corresponds to the middle observation in an ordered list. To calculate the median, the data must first be ranked (sorted in ascending order). The position of the median is:  {(*n* + 1) ÷ 2}th value  Where *n* is the number of values in a set of data.  For patients requiring admission to an intensive care unit for actual or suspected severe sepsis, include rural patients, and exclude patients admitted to an intensive care unit from a ward (i.e. not from an emergency department).  Only include cases where [Hospital service—care type, code N[N]](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/584408)  = 1 Acute care. |
| Computation: | Median time from first clinical contact (with a general practitioner, ambulance service or emergency department) to the first dose of antibiotics for patients with suspected bacterial meningitis or for patients requiring admission to an intensive care unit for actual or suspected severe sepsis. |
| Representational attributes | |
| Representation class: | Median |
| Data type: | Real |
| Unit of measure: | Time (e.g. days, hours) |
| Format: | N[N].N |
| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care |
| Reference documents: | Antibiotic Expert Group 2014. Therapeutic guidelines: antibiotic. Version 15. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited. |