

# PRoMPT BOLUS

PRagMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nOrmaL  
Saline FIUId in Sepsis

A research study information for the ACH Inpatient Units/PICU

Protocol: PRoMPT BOLUS-01

Protocol Version: 4.0, 17-May-2023

# Sepsis...

...20-30 million patients are afflicted every year

...around 24 000 people die every day

...6 million children die every year in developing countries

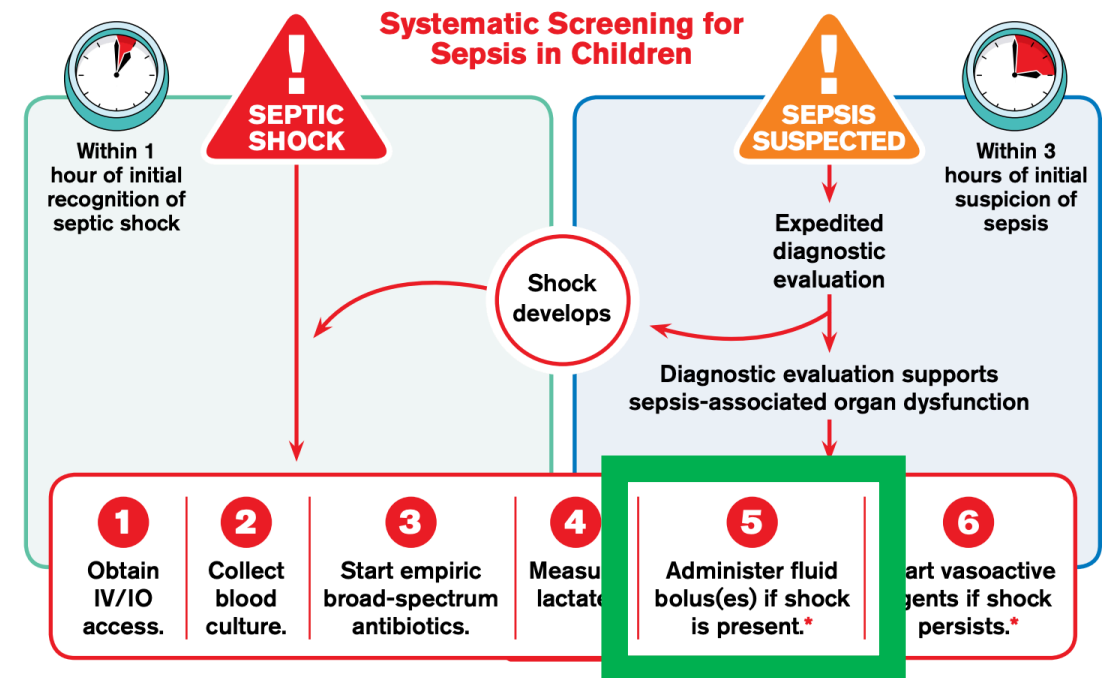
...Sepsis is one of the most expensive conditions treated in North America

This international clinical trial will determine whether resuscitation with Balanced Fluids improves clinical outcomes in children with sepsis compared to resuscitation with Normal Saline.

Fluid boluses are a cornerstone of resuscitation in children presenting with suspected sepsis.

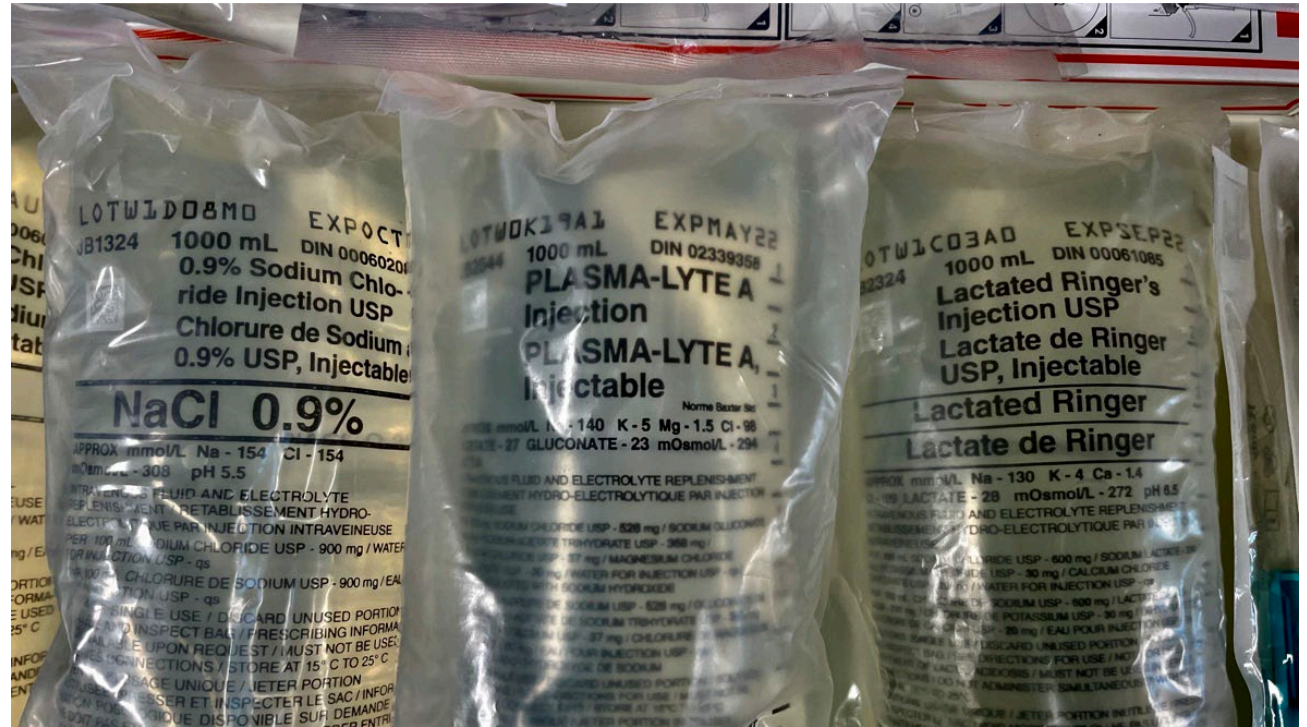
## Initial Resuscitation Algorithm for Children

Surviving Sepsis Campaign



Traditionally we use Normal Saline.

But really...  
which crystalloid is the best option?

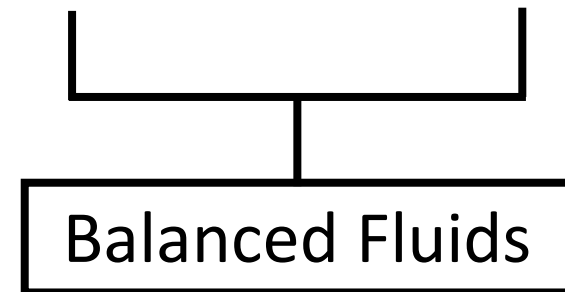


0.9% NaCl

PlasmaLyte

Lactated Ringers

Balanced Fluids



# Crystalloid Fluid Composition

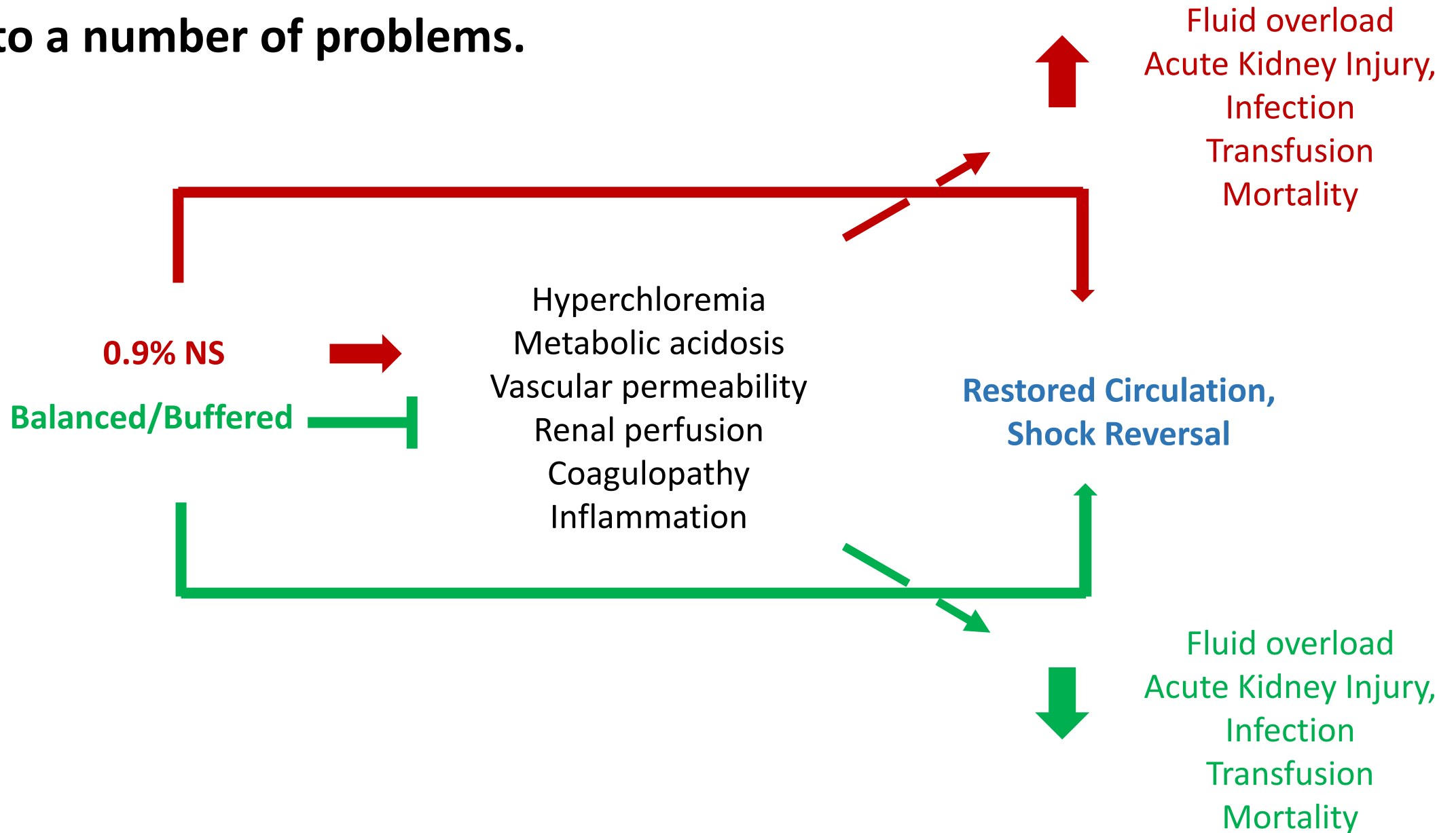
	Blood	Normal Saline	Lactated Ringers	Plasma-Lyte
Na (mEq/L)	140	154	130	140
Cl (mEq/L)	100	154	109	98
K (mEq/L)	4	0	4	5
Ca (mEq/L)	5	0	2-3	0
Buffer	multiple	None	Lactate	Acet/Gluc
pH	7.4	5	6.5	7.4
SID	24	0	28	49
Osmolality	290	308	273	295

If we compare Crystalloid Fluids to Blood we see some significant differences.

Particularly in the amount of Chloride, the pH and the Strong Ion Difference

SID = Strong Ion Difference

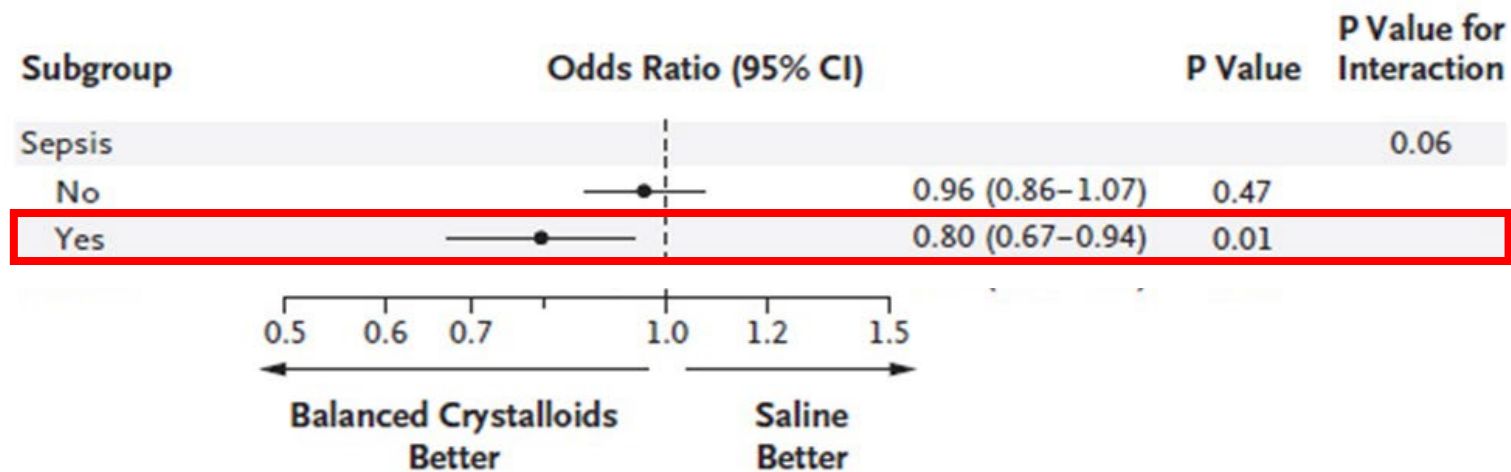
# Excessive use of NaCl has the potential to lead to a number of problems.



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Balanced Crystalloids versus Saline in Critically Ill Adults

Some studies in Adults have  
shown lower mortality rates  
in those treated  
with Balanced Fluids





# Hyperchloremia is associated with acute kidney injury in pediatric patients with septic shock



Erin K. Stenson<sup>1\*</sup>, Natalie Z. Cvijanovich<sup>2</sup>, Geoffrey L. Allen<sup>3</sup>, Neal J. Thomas<sup>4</sup>, Michael T. Bigham<sup>5</sup>, Scott L. Weiss<sup>6</sup>, Julie C. Fitzgerald<sup>6</sup>, Parag N. Jain<sup>7</sup>, Keith Meyer<sup>8</sup>, Michael Quasney<sup>9</sup>, Mark Hall<sup>10</sup>, Rainer Gedeit<sup>11</sup>, Robert J. Freishtat<sup>12</sup>, Jeffrey Nowak<sup>13</sup>, Riad Lutfi<sup>14</sup>, Shira Gertz<sup>15</sup>, Jocelyn R. Grunwell<sup>16</sup>, Hector R. Wong<sup>17</sup> and Nick Anas<sup>18</sup>

Exposure	Outcome	aOR (95% CI)
Minimum Chloride $\geq 110$ mmol/L	Stage 2/3 AKI	2.4 (1.2-4.9)
Minimum Chloride $\geq 110$ mmol/L	Mortality	4.1 (2.1-8.1)

Septic children with higher chloride levels were more likely to have acute kidney injury (AKI) and more likely to die.

aOR – adjusted Odds Ratio





## Crystalloid Fluid Choice and Clinical Outcomes in Pediatric Sepsis: A Matched Retrospective Cohort Study


Scott L. Weiss, MD, MSCE<sup>1</sup>, Luke Keele, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Fran Balamuth, MD, PhD, MSCE<sup>3,4</sup>, Neika Vendetti, MPH<sup>3</sup>, Rachael Ross, MPH<sup>3</sup>, Julie C. Fitzgerald, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, and Jeffrey S. Gerber, MD, PhD<sup>3,5</sup>

## Resuscitation With Balanced Fluids Is Associated With Improved Survival in Pediatric Severe Sepsis\*

Elizabeth T. Emrath, MD<sup>1</sup>; James D. Fortenberry, MD, MCCM<sup>1,2</sup>; Curtis Travers, MPH<sup>3</sup>; Courtney E. McCracken, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Kiran B. Hebbar, MD, FCCM<sup>1,2</sup>

**BUT.....**

2 large health record studies  
comparing children with sepsis  
who received  
Normal Saline vs Balanced Fluids  
had conflicting results.

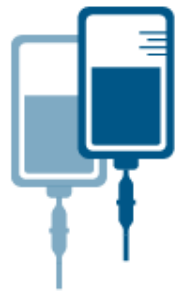


**Surviving Sepsis Campaign International  
Guidelines for the Management of Septic  
Shock and Sepsis-Associated Organ  
Dysfunction in Children**

Current Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines State:

*“We suggest balanced crystalloids, rather than 0.9% saline,  
for resuscitation of children with septic shock”*  
(weak recommendation, very low quality of evidence)

**Balanced crystalloid vs 0.9% saline is a  
knowledge gap and research opportunity**



# PROMPT BOLUS

PRagMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nOrmal  
Saline FIUId in Sepsis

# Our Research Question

In children aged 2 months to < 18 years  
presenting to the Emergency Department in septic shock,  
does resuscitation with Balanced Fluids  
improve clinical outcomes  
compared to resuscitation with Normal Saline?



# Study Summary

- **Design:** International pragmatic open-label RCT
- **Population:** Suspected septic shock, 2 mo to <18 yr
- **Setting:** Emergency Department (extension to wards, PICU)
- **Intervention:** Balanced Fluids (LR or PlasmaLyte) vs Normal Saline
- **1° outcome:** Major adverse kidney events (MAKE30)
- **Duration:** 4.5 years enrolment



# PRoMPT BOLUS

PRagMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nOrmaL Saline FIUId in Sepsis



Paediatric Research in  
Emergency Departments  
International Collaborative

**3 PEM Networks**

**4 Countries**

**8800 Participants**



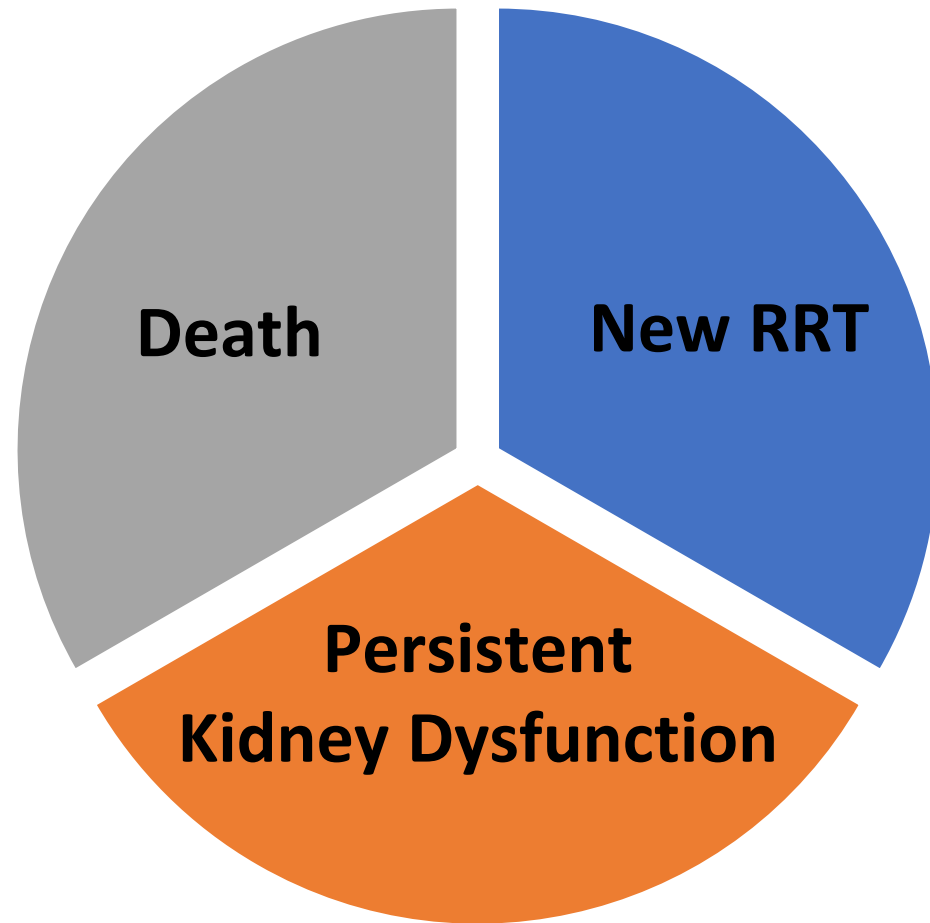
*Pediatric Emergency Research Canada*

n= 2718



# Primary Endpoint

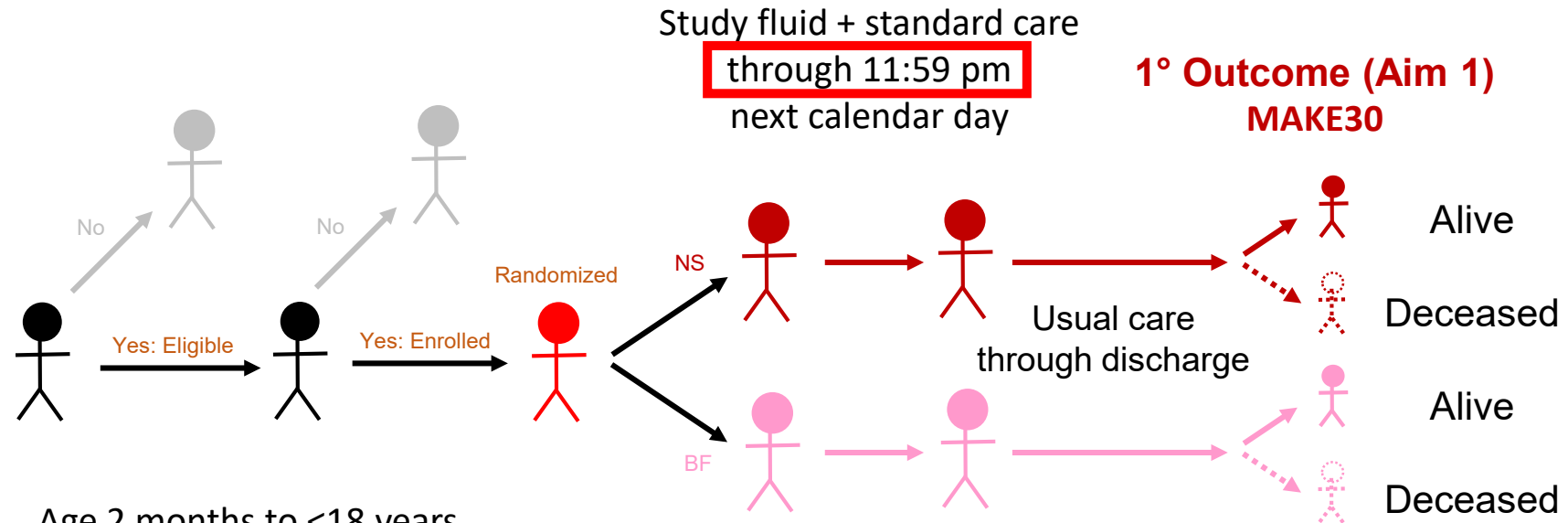
Major Adverse Kidney Events within 30 days (MAKE30)



MAKE30 has been recommended by NIH as a patient-centred outcome for phase 3 clinical trials.



# Study Design Overview



- Age 2 months to <18 years
  - Suspected septic shock
    - Parenteral antibiotics
    - Blood culture
    - 20 mL/kg for abnormal perfusion or hypotension
- OR
- Initiate sepsis pathway
  - Expect >1 fluid bolus

**Observe for safety and efficacy outcomes (Aim 2)**



Tri-Council Policy Statement

# Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans

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## TCPS2 2018

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Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

# Article 3.8 Consent for Research in Individual Medical Emergencies

(Deferred Consent)



# Deferred Consent

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- Participant requires immediate intervention;
- No standard efficacious care exists OR research offers a realistic possibility of direct benefit
- Risk is not greater than standard efficacious care OR is clearly justified by the prospect for direct benefits
- Participant is unconscious or lacks capacity
- Third party authorization cannot be secured in sufficient time
- No relevant prior directive by the participant is known to exist.

PRoMPT BOLUS has been approved by our local Research Ethics Board to operate using Deferred Consent.

# Caregiver Information Form

Given to Caregiver  
by the ED Team.  
Research Team will come  
and talk with family.



Alberta Children's Hospital



## PRoMPT BOLUS

PRagMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nOrmal Saline FIUID in Sepsis



### Information Sheet for Parents and/or Legal Guardians

**Study Title:** Pragmatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced Versus Normal Saline Fluids in Sepsis (PRoMPT BOLUS)

**Principal Investigators** Dr. Graham Thompson Telephone: (403) 955-7740  
Dr. Stephen Freedman Telephone: (403) 955-7295

**Research Coordinator:** Dr. Beata Mickiewicz  
Telephone: (403) 955-5455

Your child has been enrolled into a research study. This process was approved by the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services because the study is safe and potentially beneficial to participants, and because it is comparing two treatments that we know both work and are commonly used to treat your child's condition.

Your child's doctor determined that giving fluids through an intravenous (IV) was needed to treat your child. Because IV fluids needed to start right away, there was not time to review all details of the study and obtain your consent prior to beginning treatment.

There were several IV fluid options: Normal Saline and Balanced Fluids (either Lactated Ringer's (LR) or PlasmaLyte (PL)). *All of these fluids are proven to treat sepsis, but we do not know if either Normal Saline or Balanced Fluids is best.*

Doctors at the Alberta Children's Hospital are doing this study to see if Normal Saline or Balanced Fluids is better in the treatment of sepsis. Your child will receive either Normal Saline or Balanced Fluids, but your doctors are still in charge of when and how much fluid to give (and all other aspects of your child's care).

We know that it is very important for you to understand what the PRoMPT BOLUS study is. A member of the research team will arrange for a time to meet with you to provide more detailed information about the study and to respond to any and all of your questions.

Ethics ID: REB20-1100  
Study Title: Pragmatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced Versus Normal Saline Fluids in Sepsis (PRoMPT BOLUS)  
PI: Dr. Graham Thompson  
Version and Date: 1.1 / 27-Apr-2022

## So what does all this mean for me? (i.e. Inpatient/PICU Responsibilities)



1. Identify if your patient has been enrolled
2. Manage your patient!!
  - Allocated Fluids
  - Stopping Criteria
  - Other Clinical Care
3. Communication is key
  - Clinical teams
  - Study team



**PRoMPT BOLUS – Research**  
Administer 0.9% Normal Saline per order

**PRoMPT BOLUS – Research**  
Administer Balanced Fluids per order

### Participant Wrist Bands

**PRoMPT BOLUS**  
PragMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nNormal Saline Fluid in Sepsis


Fluid Start Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

This child has been randomized in the Emergency Department (ED) to receive:

**Normal Saline (0.9% NaCl)**

for all fluid administration (bolus and maintenance) until 11:59pm the day following ED Randomization

For questions, contact:  
Dr. Graham Thompson at (403)369-0765 / email: [graham.thompson@ahs.ca](mailto:graham.thompson@ahs.ca) or;  
Dr. Eli Gled at (403)874-6930 / email: [el.gled@ahs.ca](mailto:el.gled@ahs.ca) or;  
Dr. Suzette Cooke at [suzette.cooke@ahs.ca](mailto:suzette.cooke@ahs.ca) or via the on-call contact process



**PRoMPT BOLUS**  
PragMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nNormal Saline Fluid in Sepsis


Fluid Start Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

This child has been randomized in the Emergency Department (ED) to receive:

**Balanced Fluids (Lactated Ringers or PlasmaLyte)**

for all fluid administration (bolus and maintenance) until 11:59pm the day following ED Randomization

For questions, contact:  
Dr. Graham Thompson at (403)369-0765 / email: [graham.thompson@ahs.ca](mailto:graham.thompson@ahs.ca) or;  
Dr. Eli Gled at (403)874-6930 / email: [el.gled@ahs.ca](mailto:el.gled@ahs.ca) or;  
Dr. Suzette Cooke at [suzette.cooke@ahs.ca](mailto:suzette.cooke@ahs.ca) or via the on-call contact process




**PRoMPT BOLUS**  
PragMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nNormal Saline Fluid in Sepsis

**RESEARCH**

Administer:  
**Normal Saline (0.9% NaCl)**

for all fluid administration (bolus and maintenance) until 11:59pm the day following ED randomization

Fluid Start Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_




**PRoMPT BOLUS**  
PragMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nNormal Saline Fluid in Sepsis

**RESEARCH**

Administer:  
**Balanced Fluids**  
(Lactated Ringers or PlasmaLyte)

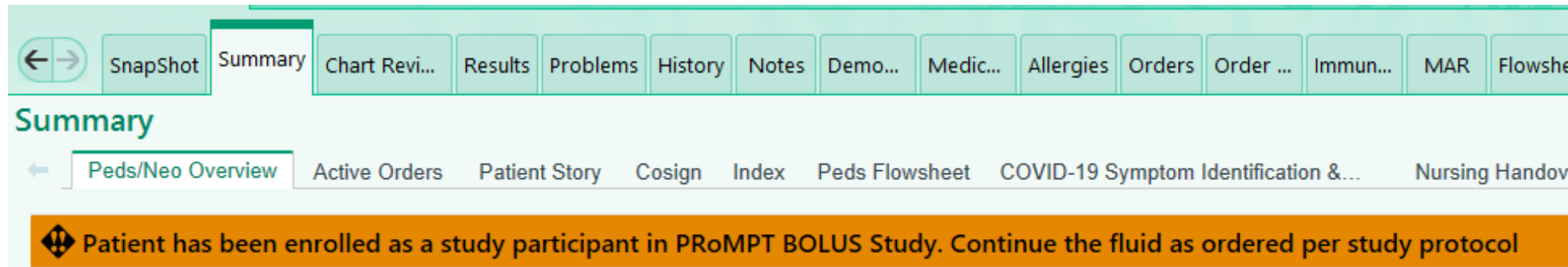
for all fluid administration (bolus and maintenance) until 11:59pm the day following ED randomization

Fluid Start Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_



### IV Pole Hang Tag

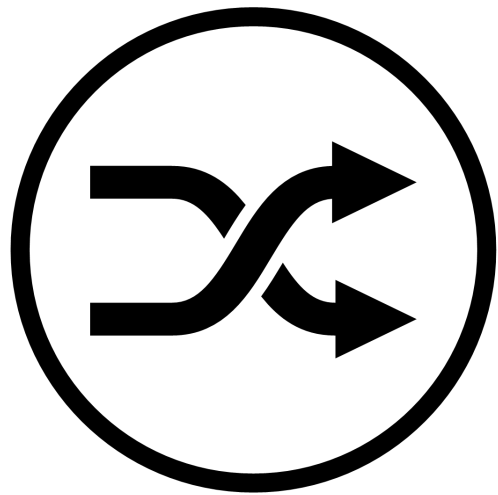
### Inpatient Door Signs



The screenshot shows the 'Summary' tab of the Connect Care interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes buttons for SnapShot, Summary, Chart Revi..., Results, Problems, History, Notes, Demo..., Medic..., Allergies, Orders, Order ..., Immun..., MAR, and Flowshe. Below this, a secondary navigation bar shows 'Peds/Neo Overview' as the active tab, with other options like Active Orders, Patient Story, Cosign, Index, Peds Flowsheet, COVID-19 Symptom Identification &..., and Nursing Handov. A prominent orange banner at the bottom of the screen contains the following text: **⚠ Patient has been enrolled as a study participant in PRoMPT BOLUS Study. Continue the fluid as ordered per study protocol**

### Study banner in Connect Care (Summary Peds/Neo Overview)

# Study Intervention



Randomization

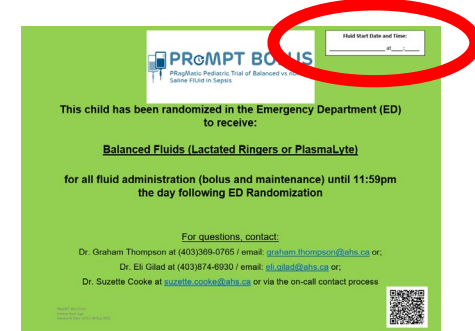
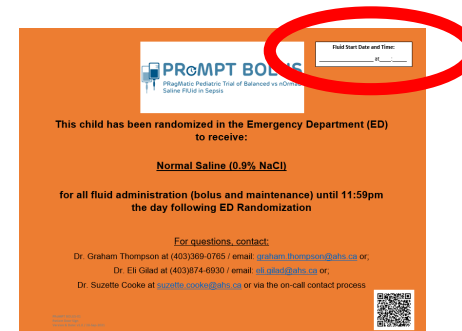
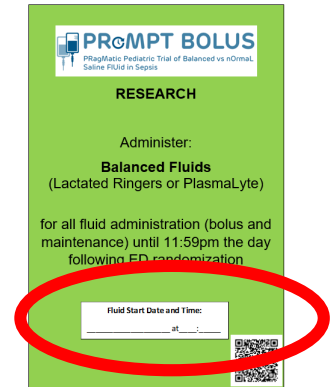
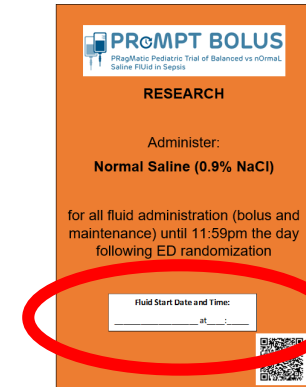
BF



NS



Midnight the day  
after randomization



# Fluids Available for Use

Base	Solution	Location
0.9% NaCl (NS)	NS	ED/PICU/wards
	NS + 20KCl	ED/PICU/wards
	NS + 40KCl	ED/PICU/wards
	NS + 60KCl	Unit 4
	D5NS	ED/PICU/wards
	D5NS + 20KCl	ED/PICU/wards
	D12.5NS + 40KCl	Unit 4
	D12.5NS + 60KCl	Unit 4
	Other dextrose mixtures	Mix in ED <sup>^</sup>
Lactated Ringers (LR)	LR	ED/PICU/wards
	LR + 20KCl	PICU/Unit1/Unit2
	D5LR	PICU/OR
	(LR + 20KCl) + D5	Mix in ED <sup>^</sup>
PlasmaLyte (PL)	PL*	ED/PICU/wards

\* AHS Pharmacy does not endorse additives to PL

<sup>^</sup> IV Solution mixtures as per ED/PICU/Pharmacy policy.



# What about Fluid Additives?

- Dextrose, K<sup>+</sup> etc. can be used as clinically indicated
- Available ACH stock bags are listed on the next slide.
- More complicated additives can be done using ACH PICU calculators



# WARNING: Compatibilities

- Lactated Ringers is **NOT compatible** with the following items:
  - Ceftriaxone
  - Some Blood Products
- Please use a 2<sup>nd</sup> line if available. If not, exceptional IV flushing standards are vital.
- Please comply with all AHS compatibility protocols and procedures.

# Stopping Criteria (for NS and BF)

Item	Definition
Hyperkalemia*	$K^+ >6$ mEq/L
Hypercalcemia*	$Ca^{+2} >3$ mmol/L <i>OR</i> $iCa^{+2} >1.35$ mmol/L
Severe hepatic impairment	ALT $> 10\ 000$ U/L <i>OR</i> total bilirubin $>205$ umol/L
Severe renal impairment	Urine output $<0.5$ ml/kg for 16 hrs (continuous) <i>OR</i> Initiation of new Renal Replacement Therapy
Hypersensitivity to allocated fluids	Based on managing clinical team



**\*confirmed by immediate retesting**

# Stopping Criteria (for NS and BF)



Stopping  
Criteria  
stickers

If a child meets one of the Stopping Criteria, they are no longer required to receive the allocated study fluid. Manage the child at your discretion. However, the child is still a study participant and we need to collect safety data outcomes. Please follow the following steps:

1) Place a **Stopping Criteria sticker** (red sticker) on the child's wrist band and IV hang tag



- 2) **Notify the study team** that the child had been enrolled but met stopping criteria
- 3) Place a note in Connect Care in the child's chart using the SmartPhrase **.PBSTOP**



# Ongoing Care

The timing and amount of fluids, use of antibiotics, vasoactive meds and all other care is at the discretion of the managing clinical team

# Study Banner/Notification in Connect Care

The screenshot shows the 'Summary' tab selected in the top navigation bar. Below it, the 'Peds/Neo Overview' sub-tab is active. A prominent orange banner at the bottom of the summary view contains the text: 'Patient has been enrolled as a study participant in PRoMPT BOLUS Study. Continue the fluid as ordered per study protocol'. An orange arrow points from this banner down to the first point in the list below.

1) A bright **orange** Banner located on Summary Peds/Neo Overview  
This is specific to PRoMPT BOLUS

2) A **yellow** Research Participant notification on the Story Board  
This is generic to all research study enrolments

These will stay in place during the intervention window (until 23:59 the day after randomization) after which they will disappear.

The screenshot shows the 'Research Studies' section. On the left, a patient profile for 'Aegon Tagaryen' is visible, including MRN: 1000291557 and a 'Research Participant' status badge. On the right, the 'Research Studies' panel shows an 'Enrolled' status for a study with code 12345 and IRB# Pro123. A yellow arrow points from the second point in the list to this 'Research Participant' badge.

# What do I do if I see the Study Banner?

- The Study Banner is a communication tool!
- It is there to remind you that the patient is on study.
- Ensure that the participant receives the allocated fluids for all future fluid boluses and maintenance (until midnight the day following randomization).

**If you see other PRoMPT BOLUS identification items (coloured wristband, IV hangtag etc.), but nothing in Connect Care, that child is still in the study.**

# Communication is Key!!



- Inform consulting teams of study participation
- Inform accepting teams if any transfer of care (i.e PICU → Ward or Ward → PICU)
- Let the study team know when/where a participant is admitted
- Add PRoMPT BOLUS **Connect Care SmartPhrase** to clinical notes:
  - for NS arm use **.PBNS**
  - for BF arm use **.PBBF**



# FLUIDS?

# SEPSIS?

THINK



**PRoMPT BOLUS**

PRagMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nOrmal Saline FIUid in Sepsis





Found on all study documents



Study Summary  
Eligibility Criteria  
ED Study Information  
Inpatient/PICU Study Information  
Fluid Additives  
Stopping Criteria  
FAQ



**PRoMPT BOLUS**  
PRagMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nOrmal Saline FIUId in Sepsis

Dr. Graham Thompson (ED): (403) 369-0765  
[graham.thompson@ahs.ca](mailto:graham.thompson@ahs.ca)

Dr. Stephen Freedman (ED): (587) 899-8626  
[stephen.freedman@ahs.ca](mailto:stephen.freedman@ahs.ca)

Dr. Suzette Cooke (Pediatric Hospital Medicine): on-call contact process  
[suzette.cooke@ahs.ca](mailto:suzette.cooke@ahs.ca)

Dr. Eli Gilad (PICU): (403) 874-6930  
[eli.gilad@ahs.ca](mailto:eli.gilad@ahs.ca)

Beata Mickiewicz (ACH Study Coordinator): (403) 955-5455  
[beata.mickiewicz@ahs.ca](mailto:beata.mickiewicz@ahs.ca)

Sarah Williamson-Urquhart (National Study Coordinator)  
[sarah.urquhart@ahs.ca](mailto:sarah.urquhart@ahs.ca)

PRoMPT BOLUS study email: [PromptBolus@ahs.ca](mailto:PromptBolus@ahs.ca)

[PromptBolus@ahs.ca](mailto:PromptBolus@ahs.ca)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



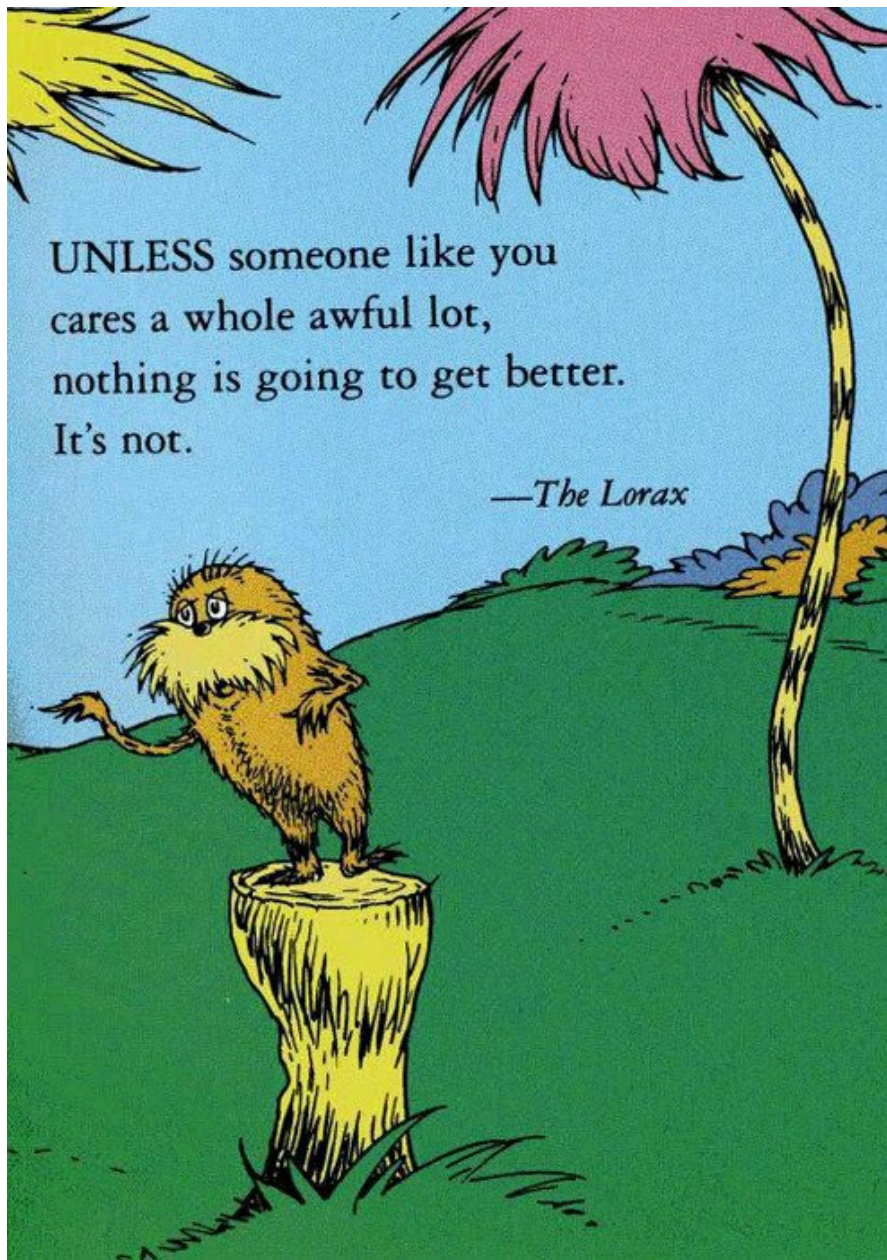
Inpatient/PICU – Alberta Children’s Hospital (ACH)

- Q:** What is this study all about?  
**A:** The PRoMPT BOLUS study will determine if resuscitation with balanced fluids results in improved outcomes in children aged 6 mos to <18 yrs presenting to the Emergency Department with sepsis.
- Q:** Will children who become septic on the ward/in the PICU be eligible for enrollment?  
**A:** No. This study is enrolling exclusively in the Emergency Department. This is to avoid any confounding from fluids previously administered on the ward, in the PICU or during transport.
- Q:** How will I know if my patient is enrolled in the study?  
**A:** The ED clinical staff will inform the admitting team about enrollment during handover. We are using multiple colour-coded visual cues (Green = Balanced Fluid, Orange = Normal Saline) to let you know about the study:  
1) Patient Wrist Band  
2) IV Hang Tag  
3) Patient Door Sign  
The Inpatient/PICU Study Instructions are available on the wards/PICU.
- Q:** Will I know which fluids my patient is allocated to?  
**A:** Yes. This is an open-label study (i.e. not blinded). Multiple colour-coded visual cues (Green = Balanced Fluid, Orange = Normal Saline) will remind you what fluid the participant has been allocated to.
- Q:** How much IV fluid should I order?  
**A:** The amount, timing and rate of fluid administered is at the discretion of the managing health care provider.
- Q:** Are there special study-specific fluid bags?  
**A:** No. You will use the fluids that are available as part of the routine hospital stock.
- Q:** Can I use a different fluid than the one my patient is allocated to?  
**A:** Adherence to the allocated fluid is very important to maintain the quality of the evidence derived from the study. However, if there is a *definitive clinical indication* for using an alternate fluid from the one allocated for the study, please manage the patient based on that clinical requirement (note: these cases should be rare/exceptional). An example would be using saline for clinically relevant hyponatremia.
- Q:** Can I add electrolytes, dextrose, etc?  
**A:** Yes. Some patients will require added electrolytes, dextrose etc. However, AHS pharmacy policy does not allow additives mixed directly into Balanced Fluid bags. A very handy guide to mixing electrolytes for can be found on the wards/PICU.
- Q:** What about mixing medication infusions?  
**A:** Please follow routine AHS pharmacy directives for mixing medications, regardless of what study fluid your patient has been allocated to.
- Q:** Are there any compatibility issues?  
**A:** There are several well-known compatibility issues for Lactated Ringers (LR). LR cannot be provided through the same IV line at the same time as ceftriaxone or some blood products. Options include the use of a second IV line, or a very careful IV flush prior to- and after- the use of these medications. Please review and follow all AHS pharmacy administration guidelines for all medication administration and compatibility concerns.
- PRoMPT BOLUS-01  
FAQ Sheet – Inpatient – ACH  
Version & Date: v3.0 / 02-May-2023

- Any questions, please contact
  - **Dr. Graham Thompson** at (403) 369-0765 / [graham.thompson@ahs.ca](mailto:graham.thompson@ahs.ca)
  - Study team pager (Mon-Fri, 10:00-17:00): **#11316**

# Contact Information

- Dr. Graham Thompson at **(403) 369-0765** [graham.thompson@ahs.ca](mailto:graham.thompson@ahs.ca)
- **Dr. Eli Gilad** at **(403) 874-6930** [eli.gilad@ahs.ca](mailto:eli.gilad@ahs.ca)
- **Dr. Suzette Cooke** at [suzette.cooke@ahs.ca](mailto:suzette.cooke@ahs.ca) or via the on-call contact process
- Study team pager (Mon-Fri, 10:00-17:00): **#11316**
- Study email: [PromptBolus@ahs.ca](mailto:PromptBolus@ahs.ca)



The Lorax, Dr. Seuss

## Anticipated Impact

**1,275** fewer cases of MAKE30

**242** fewer cases of CKD

**50** fewer deaths

**\$35 million** less in health care costs

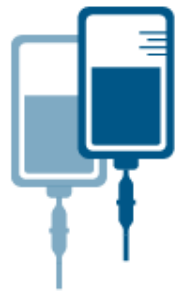
US estimates

# Acknowledgements



HC6-24-c251146  
NCT04102371

**CAN'T DO IT  
WITHOUT YOU**



# PROMPT BOLUS

PRagMatic Pediatric Trial of Balanced vs nOrmaL  
Saline FIUId in Sepsis