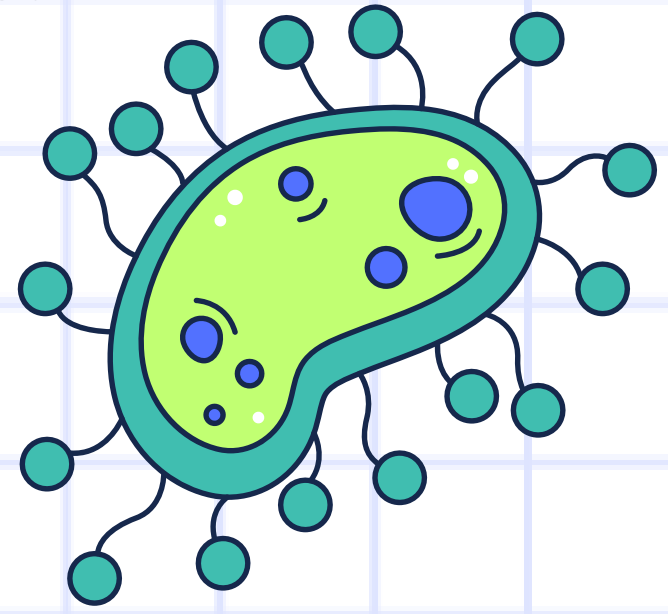


MICROLEARNING TOPICS:

Timing of Blood Cultures, Antibiotics, IV Fluids & Provider Communication

BLOOD CULTURES & ABX



Importance:

- Blood cultures should be drawn before antibiotics to avoid contaminating results.
- Timely administration of broad-spectrum antibiotics is the single most important factor in reducing sepsis mortality.

Why It Matters:

- Cultures guide us to the right antibiotic and prevent unnecessary broad-spectrum use.
- Delays in antibiotic administration = higher mortality risk (every hour counts).



IV FLUID ADMINISTRATION AND VITAL SIGNS



Importance:

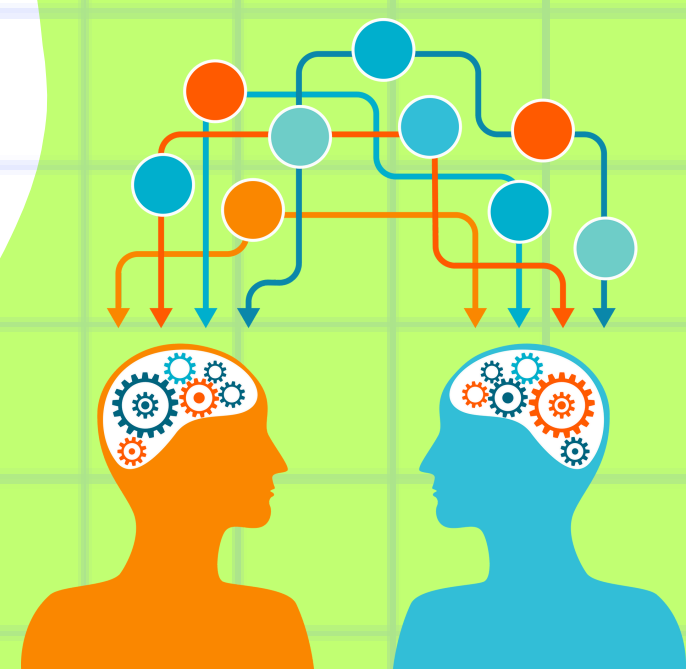
- Initial fluid resuscitation (≥ 30 mL/kg) is a core CMS requirement.
- Vital signs post-bolus help determine if the patient is fluid-responsive or in shock.

Why It Matters:

- Giving fluids without reassessment can mask deterioration or cause harm (fluid overload).
- Reassessing vitals after the bolus allows early recognition of patients who need escalation (vasopressors, ICU).



Sepsis care is a race against time. Your early actions and communication set the stage for survival.



COMMUNICATING W/ PROVIDER

Importance:

- Nurses are often the first eyes on changes in condition.
- Clear, timely communication (using ISBARR) ensures providers have the full clinical picture.

Why It Matters:

- Provider documentation (e.g., rationale for alternative fluid bolus) is required for CMS compliance.
- Early communication = earlier interventions, better outcomes, and protects the team/patient in chart review.



SCAN ME