Antibiotic Timing





Shock is present



Sepsis is definite or probable



Administer antimicrobials *immediately*, ideally within 1 hour of recognition.



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Sepsis is possible



Administer antimicrobials *immediately*, ideally within 1 hour of recognition.



Rapid assessment* of infectious vs. noninfectious causes of acute illness.



Administer antimicrobials *within 3 hours* if concern for infection persists.

*Rapid assessment includes history and clinical examination, tests for both infectious and noninfectious causes of acute illness, and immediate treatment of acute conditions that can mimic sepsis. Whenever possible, this should be completed within 3 hours of presentation so that a decision can be made as to the likelihood of an infectious cause of the patient's presentation and timely antimicrobial therapy provided if the likelihood is thought to be high.

