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| **Source of sepsis** | |
| Pulmonary | Aspiration event while hospitalized for congestive heart failure, resulting in pneumonia, acute kidney injury, hypoxia, and hypotension.  Aspiration pneumonia followed by multiorgan failure. Transition to comfort care.  Aspiration pneumonia followed by hypoxic respiratory failure and shock.  Aspiration pneumonia and bacteremia. Admitted for comfort care only.  Pneumonia and non-ST elevation myocardial infarction. Sudden in-hospital cardiac arrest.  Pneumonia leading to acute respiratory distress syndrome and shock.  Aspiration pneumonia and non-ST elevation myocardial infarction. Transitioned to comfort care. |
| Urinary | Urinary tract infection, liver injury, and renal injury present on admission, followed by worsening hypoxemia. Transition to comfort care.  Urinary tract infection followed by hypoxemia. Transitioned to comfort care. |
| Abdominal | Hypoxia, hypotension, candidemia and leukopenia 4 days after exploratory laparotomy  Diverticulitis and *Clostridium difficile* infection followed by acute kidney injury and shock. Transitioned to comfort care. |
| Unknown | Mesenteric ischemia, pneumonia and urinary tract infection followed by shock. |
| **Nonsepsis cause of death** | |
| Cardiac | Congestive heart failure and fluid overload  Gastric cancer with acute renal failure and hyperkalemia leading to cardiac arrest.  Congestive heart failure and fluid overload  Congestive heart failure with acute MI. Cardiac arrest during percutaneous coronary intervention.  Acute myocardial infarction without intervention. |
| Hemorrhage | Ruptured thoracic aortic aneurysm.  Aortic dissection without intervention.  Acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding without intervention.  Lower gastrointestinal bleeding without intervention. |
| Respiratory Failure | Progression of interstitial lung disease without infection |
| Comfort Care/Pain | Multiple fractures after a fall, transition to comfort care due to intractable pain.  Hip fracture treated operatively, with intractable postoperative pain and agitation. Transitioned to comfort care. |

**Table S1**. Brief case summaries