

**Supplemental Appendix 1.** Clinical Characteristics of Critically ill Cohort at Referral Hospital in Malawi, Stratified by 3 definitions of Sepsis

applicable in a low-resource environment

Sepsis definition:	qSOFA $\geq 2$ (n=18)	No Sepsis (n=58)	p-value	Clinically Suspected Systemic Infection (n=50)	No Sepsis (n=26)	p-value	qSOFA $\geq 2$ plus Clinically Suspected Systemic Infection (n=12)	No Sepsis (n=64)	p-value
Male, n(%)	7 (39)	23 (40)	0.954	16 (32)	14 (54)	0.065	3 (25)	27 (42)	0.264
Age, median (IQR)	33 (21-40)	30 (23-42)	0.623	28 (22-37)	36 (30-49)	0.046	31 (19-53)	30 (23-40)	0.591
Study Unit			0.945			<0.001			0.931
ICU	2 (11)	9 (16)		11 (22)	0 (0)		2 (17)	9 (14)	
HDU-Medicine	5 (28)	17 (30)		18 (37)	4 (15)		4 (33)	18 (29)	
HDU-OBGyn	6 (33)	18 (32)		15 (31)	9 (34)		4 (33)	20 (32)	
HDU-Surgery	5 (28)	13 (23)		5 (10)	13 (50)		2 (17)	16 (25)	
Surgery Preceding HDU/ICU Admission, n (%)	8 (44)	26 (46)	0.883	23 (46)	11 (46)	0.989	5 (42)	29 (47)	0.745
Vital Signs at HDU/ICU Admission									
Heart rate, median (IQR)	119 (80-139)	107 (88-133)	0.469	116 (93-143)	97 (79-117)	0.999	120 (100-144)	107 (88-133)	0.726
Respiratory rate,	28 (22-31)	22 (18-	0.979	24 (18-30)	24 (19-	0.592	27 (22-32)	23 (18-	0.932

median (IQR)		28)			30)			30)	
Mean arterial pressure (mmHg), median (IQR)	72 (64-87)	90 (79-106)	0.0002	86 (69-99)	92 (77-113)	0.045	67 (57-89)	88 (78-104)	0.001
Presence of Fever (>38.4°C) during course, n (%)	8 (44)	20 (36)	0.724	23 (46)	5 (22)	0.096	7 (58)	21 (34)	0.284
Laboratory Measurements									
HIV positive, n (%)	2 (15)	6 (13)	0.806	7 (17)	1 (6)	0.246	2 (22)	6 (12)	0.395
Malaria, n (%)	4 (24)	12 (22)	0.280	11 (23)	5 (22)	0.856	2 (18)	14 (23)	0.115
Leukocyte count, median (IQR)	12 (6-19)	9 (6-13)	0.878	10 (5-15)	8 (7-14)	0.627	12 (6-19)	9 (6-14)	0.833
Outcomes									
Hospital death, n (%)	9 (50)	15 (26)	0.054	21 (42)	3 (12)	0.007	9 (75)	15 (23)	<0.001

qSOFA: quick Sequential Organ Failure Assessment; IQR: interquartile range; ICU: Intensive Care Unit; HDU: High-dependency unit; OBGyn: Obstetrics and Gynecology; mmHg: millimeters of Mercury; C: Celcius; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus