

# Question 6

You are the Foundation Year 2 doctor at General Hospital.

Bleep number: 1414

GMC number: 11235813

## Patient details

Patient name: Catherine Bell

Date of birth: 14/3/1984

Patient number: 086 602 540

## History

Mrs Bell presented to the Emergency Department with a 2 day history of productive cough, shortness of breath, and fever.

## Examination

Respiratory Rate 28

SpO<sub>2</sub>: 92%

Heart rate: 124bpm

Blood pressure: 88/54mmHg

Temperature 39.2°C

Responds to voice.

## Task

Given the clinical context prescribe the appropriate fluid management.



Given the clinical context and observations the patient is likely experiencing septic shock. The initial fluid management of septic shock is a fluid bolus. The appropriate volume in this case is 500ml, although in some cases you would consider giving a reduced volume such as 250ml or no fluid, such as:

- Elderly
- Low body mass
- Fluid overloaded
  - Heart failure
  - AKI or CKD (sometimes fluids are appropriate in AKI)
  - Cirrhosis

Although not necessary for this question, further steps would include the rest of the sepsis six (Measure urine output, take sputum and blood culture, measure lactate, give oxygen and empirical antibiotics). You would also want to involve a senior clinician and consider discussing with intensive care.