**Appendix Figure Legends**

**Appendix Figure 1.** Summary of literature and study selection. SEP-1 = Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock Early Management Bundle. \* One of these studies investigated 3 individual and separate cohorts of patients, and each cohort is treated as a separate study in this analysis. Sixteen total studies were analyzed.

**Appendix Figure 2.** A funnel plot and Egger’s statistic (p=0.10) for the 17 studies analyzed.

**Appendix Figure 3.** Panels A and B show the effect of treatment with a sepsis bundle on the odds ratio [95% confidence interval (CI)] of patients having lactate levels measured and blood cultures obtained respectively.