# **Sepsis Micro-Credential Test Plan**

#### I. Patient Problems (Initial - Causes and Concurrent Problems - Sequelae) (40%)

- Altered mental status
- Hyperthermia/Hypothermia
- Hypotension and hypoperfusion
- Dysrhythmias
- Respiratory failure
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
- Coagulopathies (e.g., DIC, thrombocytopenia)
- Endocrine/Metabolic dysfunction (e.g., insulin resistance, adrenal insufficiency, hyperlactatemia)
- Liver dysfunction
- Gastrointestinal dysfunction (e.g., peritonitis, increased intestinal permeability or "gut leak")
- Renal dysfunction
- Skin dysfunction (e.g., wounds, rash)
- Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS)
- Urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Leukopenia, leukocytosis, and bandemia
- Infection (e.g., positive blood cultures, endocarditis, MDRO)
- Acid-base disorders
- Shock states (septic, hypovolemic, cardiogenic, obstructive)

#### II. Therapeutic Interventions and Modalities (35%)

- Antimicrobial therapy (treatment, antibiotic stewardship)
- Fluid replacement
- Vasopressors
- Glycemic control, steroids
- Nutritional therapy
- Supplemental oxygen therapies (invasive and non-invasive strategies)
- Source control (surgical, non-surgical)



### III. Monitoring and Safety (25%)

- Cardiopulmonary monitoring
- Diagnostic testing (e.g., labs, cultures, ABG, radiology)
- Focused physical assessments (e.g., vital signs, I&O, skin, capillary refill)
- Sepsis screening tools
- Alarm detection and management
- Post-sepsis syndrome
- Patient/family sepsis education and decision-making
- Performance improvement for sepsis quality indicators



## **Bibliography**

References used for item validation.

AACN Essentials of Critical Care Care Nursing, 4th ed., edited by Suzanne Burns and Sarah Delgado, McGraw Hill, 2019.

AACN Essentials of Progressive Care Nursing, 4th ed., edited by Suzanne Burns and Sarah Delgado, McGraw Hill, 2019.

AACN Procedure Manual for High Acuity, Progressive, and Critical Care, 7th ed., edited by Debra Wiegand, Elsevier, 2017.

Advanced Critical Care Care Nursing, 2nd ed., edited by Vicki Good and Peggy Kirkwood, Elsevier, 2018.

Alexander, Earnest and John Allen. "Strategies for the Management of Sepsis." *AACN advanced critical care* vol. 30,1(2019):5-11. doi: https://doi.org/10.4037/aacnacc2019526

Bridges, Elizabeth, and Sheryl Greco. "Identifying Patients at Risk for Sepsis." *Critical care nurse* vol. 38,6 (2018): 72-74. doi:10.4037/ccn2018245

Cooper, Adam S. "Corticosteroids for Treating Sepsis in Children and Adults." *Critical care nurse* vol. 40,4 (2020): 83-84. doi:10.4037/ccn2020588

Core Curriculum for High Acuity, Progressive, and Critical Care Nursing, 7th ed., edited by Tonja Hartjes, Elsevier, 2018.

Evans, Laura et al. "Surviving sepsis campaign: international guidelines for management of sepsis and septic shock 2021." *Intensive care medicine* vol. 47,11 (2021): 1181-1247. doi:10.1007/s00134-021-06506-y

Kleindorfer, Dawn O et al. "2021 Guideline for the Prevention of Stroke in Patients With Stroke and Transient Ischemic Attack: A Guideline From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association." *Stroke* vol. 52,7 (2021): e364-e467. doi:10.1161/STR.0000000000000375

Manual of Care Care Nursing: Interprofessional Collaborative Management, 8th ed., edited by Marianne Saunorus Baird, Elsevier, 2023.



Mosby's Diagnostic and Laboratory Test Reference, 15th ed., edited by Kathleen Deska Pagana, Elsevier, 20.

"Resources for Sepsis." American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, 2024, www.aacn.org/clinical-resources/sepsis.

"Sepsis." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 24 Aug. 2023, www.cdc.gov/sepsis/index.html.

Critical Care Nursing: Diagnosis and Management, 9th ed., edited by Linda Urden, Elsevier, 2022.

"Sepsis." Sepsis Alliance, 2024, www.sepsis.org.

