

SEVERE CAP DEFINITION: 1 MAJOR CRITERIA OR 3 MINOR CRITERIA

Major Criteria:

- Septic shock with need for vasopressors
- Respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation

Minor Criteria:

- Respiratory rate ≥ 30 breaths/min
- PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio ≤ 250
- Multilobar infiltrates
- Confusion/disorientation
- Uremia (blood urea nitrogen level ≥ 20 mg/dl)
- Leukopenia* (white blood cell count $< 4,000$ cells/ μ l)
- Thrombocytopenia (platelet count $< 100,000$ / μ l)
- Hypothermia (core temperature $< 36^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- Hypotension requiring aggressive fluid resuscitation

*Due to infection (not chemotherapy induced)

ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA:

Anaerobe coverage typically not required unless lung abscess or empyema is present or suspected

CULTURE RECOMMENDATIONS:

NON-SEVERE CAP: Obtain MRSA nasal swab and blood/sputum cultures if:

- Previous pseudomonas or MRSA respiratory infection
- IV antibiotics within 90 days

SEVERE CAP: Obtain MRSA nasal swab and blood/sputum cultures on all patients

