**Supplementary Table 1.** Time from triage to blood culture according to fever and qSOFA score at triage

|                | All            | qSOFA score < 2 points | qSOFA score ≥ 2 points | P-value |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| **All**        | 65.5 (24.0–150.7) | 59.0 (24.0–137.6) | 77.6 (26.2–187.9) | < 0.001 |
| (n = 2,078)    | (n = 1,426)     | (n = 652)              |                       |         |
| **With fever** | 45.9 (19.7–107.0) | 45.9 (19.7–100.5) | 48.1 (21.9–126.7) | 0.193   |
| (n = 865)      | (n = 622)       | (n = 243)              |                       |         |
| **Without fever** | 85.2 (28.4–181.3) | 76.5 (26.2–160.6) | 102.7 (37.1–251.2) | < 0.001 |
| (n = 1,213)    | (n = 804)       | (n = 409)              |                       |         |

Values are presented as median (interquartile range) unless otherwise indicated. Data of two groups were compared by the Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

a) Nine patients without blood culture were excluded from the analysis.

b) Fever was defined as having an initial body temperature ≥ 38°C.