

2025 Critical Care Medicine MOCA Minute High Priority Topics Report for Subspecialties

Listed below are the 10 most difficult critical care medicine topics of 2025 based on the performance of diplomates maintaining a Critical Care Medicine certificate

Basic Pathophysiology

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
1	Patients with G6PD deficiency who develop methemoglobinemia should be treated with ascorbic acid, as methylene blue is contraindicated due to the risk of hemolysis.	IX.A.5. Hematologic/Oncologic	100-149	22
2	Nonketotic hyperglycemic coma, also referred to as hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state, is a syndrome characterized by severe hyperglycemia, hyperosmolality, and dehydration in the absence of ketoacidosis.	IX.A.7. Endocrine	150-199	14
3	Procalcitonin levels are elevated in the setting of bacterial infection due to increased release from multiple non-neuro endocrine tissues.	IX.A.10. Immunologic/Infectious Disease	100-149	16

Critical Illness Diagnosis and Management

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
4	Phenytoin is recommended for 7 days for the prevention of early post-traumatic seizures.	IX.B.1. Central Nervous System	100-149	100
5	Endomyocardial biopsy is the best diagnostic test for acute, life-threatening myocarditis.	IX.B.2. Cardiovascular	100-149	116
6	Dyspnea associated with a pleural effusion is caused by caudal displacement of the diaphragm.	IX.B.3. Pulmonary	100-149	59
7	The 2018 Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®) guidelines suggest the fourth or fifth intercostal space between the mid- and anterior axillary lines as the optimal site for emergent decompression of a tension pneumothorax in adults.	IX.B.3. Pulmonary	100-149	59
8	Transfusion-associated sepsis from bacterially contaminated platelets is a concern because platelets are stored at room temperature.	IX.B.5. Hematologic/Oncologic	100-149	11
9	Seizure prophylaxis is not recommended in patients who do not have signs or symptoms of severe preeclampsia.	IX.B.6. Obstetric	100-149	10

10	Galactomannan is an assay specific for <i>Aspergillus</i> spp. and a few other molds that can be performed directly from bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) samples and tends to increase the sensitivity and specificity over serum values in non-neutropenic patients.	IX.B.10. Immune/Infectious Disease	100-149	41
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