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retrospective (based on chart review by a single observer [MJM] with con rmation by a second observer [GZ]).

Component costs

Each microbiologic, laboratory and clinical variable was assigned an incremental dollar amount to allow calculation of the nancial impact of an episode of a positive blood culture for CoNS (Table 2). Hospital charges rather than costs were used and actual dollar amounts were obtained from relevant hospital departments. Home care charges were obtained from the principal home care provider

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