



Supplementary Fig. 1. Sensitivity analysis. (A) Cumulative mean daily respiratory charges over the first 21 days post-admission for all patients, showing a modest but significant difference between transcutaneous auricular vagus nerve stimulation (taVNS) and sham groups ($P=0.047$). (B) Full timeline analysis after exclusion of outlier patient 2020003, revealing a more pronounced divergence in cumulative charges ($P=0.0004$), with taVNS associated with consistently lower utilization. KS, Kolmogorov-Smirnov.