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Primary Research Interest:	Internal Medicine
Description of Research:	To examine the uses of carbapenems, i.e., imipenem, meropenem, doripenem, and ertapenem to determine whether use is appropriate so that interventions to optimize carbapenem use at four Emory-affiliated hospitals we will collect pharmacy data from January 2015 through December 2017 at each hospital in DDD/1000 patient-days using previously described methods. Antimicrobial susceptibility data for selected pathogen/antimicrobial combinations will be collected from each hospital during the study period. Medical record review. To ascertain the appropriateness of carbapenem use, one trained chart abstractor will review 60 randomly selected medical records at each facility in consultation with the principle investigator at each hospital. We will include patients who receive carbapenems for at least 24 hours from January 2015 to December 2015. Criteria for appropriateness will be established by the investigators on the basis of practice guidelines common to the four hospitals specifically formulated. We will collect pharmacy data from January 2015 through the end of the study period at each hospital in DDD/1000 patient-days using previously described methods. Monthly antimicrobial susceptibility data for selected pathogen/antimicrobial combinations will be collected from each hospital during the study period. We interview prescribers knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about antibiotic prescribing. Based on these results we will develop interventions to optimize use.
Relevance to VA:	To examine the uses of carbapenems, i.e., imipenem, meropenem, doripenem, and ertapenem to determine whether use is appropriate so that interventions to optimize carbapenem use at the Atlanta VA Hospital can be specifically formulated.