SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE 1. Characteristics of Study Hospital

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| **Characteristic** | **Description** |
| Hospital type | 210-bed acute-care teaching facility with an adjacent 250-bed long-term care facility |
| Services | Medical care including a wide range of subspecialties; Surgical care including cardiothoracic, vascular, general, ear-nose-and-throat, orthopedic, and urologic services |
| Primary study wards | General medical wards (N=2), surgical ward, and telemetry unit |
| Infection control measures related to the pathogens studied | All hospitalized patients are screened for nasal carriage of MRSA on admission, ward transfer, and discharge; MRSA colonized patients are placed in contact precautions until 3 negative nasal surveillance cultures are obtained with each 1 or more weeks apart; no routine decolonization is performed. Approximately 10% of patients are colonized with MRSA on admission. No screening is conducted for vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) and multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacilli and the frequency of colonization on admission is not known. Contact precautions are used for selected patients colonized or infected with multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacilli, but not for patients colonized or infected with VRE. |
| Antimicrobial restrictions | No restriction of fluoroquinolones, cephalosporins, or vancomycin; carbapenems require approval from Infectious Diseases |
| Changes in infection control practices during the study | None |
| Patient hand hygiene | Patients receive a bag of toiletries upon admission that include a bottle of alcohol hand sanitizer, but they are not routinely provided with any education on hand hygiene |

MRSA, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*