**Supplemental Table 1: Characteristics of 548,476 acute-care patient-admissions during 2016 across 122 VHA hospitals**

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| **Characteristic** |  |
| **Age, median (IQR)** | 68 (61-74) |
| **Male gender, n (%)**1 | 485,089 (88.4) |
| **Race, n (%)**  White  Black | 389,598 (71.1)  114,216 (20.8) |
| **MRSA-positive**  Nares-positive  Culture-positive only | 45,510 (8.3)  43,664 (8.0)  1,846 (0.3) |
| **Obesity, n (%)** | 188,324 (34.4) |
| **Modified APACHE score, median (IQR)**2 | 31 (22-41) |
| **Comorbidities**  Alcohol abuse  CHF  COPD  Dementia  Diabetes  Drug abuse  Liver disease, severe  Neurological disorders, other  Paralysis  PVD  Renal failure | 107,374 (19.6)  159,196 (29.1)  210,402 (38.4)  54,409 (9.9)  239,134 (43.6)  78,020 (14.2)  18,877 (3.4)  72,346 (13.2)  16,559 (3.1)  114,750 (20.9)  145,925 (26.6) |
| **Immunosuppressed, n (%)**3 | 61,329 (11.2) |
| **Admitting service, n (%)**  **Medicine**  **Surgery** | 434,304 (79.2)  114,172 (20.8) |
| **ICU stay, n (%)** | 85,993 (15.7) |
| **Days-present per admission, median (IQR)** | 4 (2-6) |

Abbreviations: APACHE Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation; COPD chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CHF congestive heart failure; ICU intensive care unit; IQR interquartile range; MRSA methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; PVD peripheral vascular disease

1. If the gender value was missing, it was classified as male.
2. The modified APACHE score does not include comorbidities, as these were adjusted for separately.
3. The immunosuppressed category includes either having a diagnosis of lymphoma, leukemia, HIV/AIDs, or organ transplantation during the 12 months prior to admissions OR receipt of an immunosuppressive medication, which was defined as follows: prednisone or steroid equivalent at a dose ≥20 mg/day during the 30 days prior to admission, chemotherapy within the 30 days prior to admission, or an anti-rejection medication, biologic agent or a disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) within the 3 month prior to admission