This product is part of the RAND Corporation technical report series. Reports may include research findings on a specific topic that is limited in scope; present discussions of the methodology employed in research; provide literature reviews, survey instruments, modeling exercises, guidelines for practitioners and research professionals, and supporting documentation; or deliver preliminary findings. All RAND reports undergo rigorous peer review to ensure that they meet high standards for research quality and objectivity.
Cellulitis-Associated Hospitalizations in Baltimore City

Carole Roan Gresenz, Teague Ruder, Nicole Lurie

Supported by the Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation
The research described in this report was sponsored by the Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation. The research was conducted in RAND Health, a division of the RAND Corporation.

The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit research organization providing objective analysis and effective solutions that address the challenges facing the public and private sectors around the world. RAND’s publications do not necessarily reflect the opinions of its research clients and sponsors.

RAND® is a registered trademark.

© Copyright 2009 RAND Corporation

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from RAND.

Published 2009 by the RAND Corporation
1776 Main Street, P.O. Box 2138, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2138
1200 South Hayes Street, Arlington, VA 22202-5050
4570 Fifth Avenue, Suite 600, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2665
RAND URL: http://www.rand.org
To order RAND documents or to obtain additional information, contact
Distribution Services: Telephone: (310) 451-7002;
Fax: (310) 451-6915; Email: order@rand.org
Executive Summary

This report describes hospitalizations associated with cellulitis, a skin infection frequently linked to methicillin-resistant \textit{staphylococcus aureus} (known as MRSA), in Baltimore City. From 2000 to 2006, the number of cellulitis-associated inpatient hospitalizations increased by 74 percent, from 1,456 to 2,539—an increase of over 1,000 hospitalizations. The corresponding increase in the rate of cellulitis-associated hospitalizations was from 2.2 to 4.0 per thousand population per year. Rates increased among all age groups and among the insured and uninsured. Rates of cellulitis hospitalizations fell from 2006 to 2007 among adults, but increased among children. Cellulitis-associated hospitalizations varied substantially across different locations within Baltimore City, with a three- to fourfold difference in the highest and lowest rates. Zip codes 21223 and 21225 had the largest number of cellulitis cases in 2007. Zip code 21225 had the greatest increase in number of cases between 2000 and 2007. Overall, rates of cellulitis-associated hospitalizations in 2007 were twice as high in Baltimore City as in the District of Columbia and Maryland as a whole.