

[P-286R] Appropriate use of antimicrobial agents at the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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The Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center currently uses a restricted antibiotic formulary. This restricted formulary may lead to increased resistance due to overuse of the same antimicrobial agents. In addition, a restricted formulary may result in inappropriate prescribing. Therefore, a medication use evaluation was conducted to characterize the inpatient antimicrobial prescribing patterns at the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center. This evaluation will be used to assist in the development of antimicrobial guidelines for the purpose of improving patient outcomes. All patients receiving one or more antimicrobial agents during the months of January and February 2000 were included in the evaluation. Patients were followed prospectively from the time the antibiotic agents were initiated through discharge. The following information was collected: antibiotics prescribed, dose and frequency of administration, duration of therapy, culture and sensitivity results, whether an ID consult was obtained, and if a pharmacist intervention was made. In addition, initial therapy was characterized as either empiric, prophylactic or therapeutic. Results and conclusions of the evaluation will be presented.