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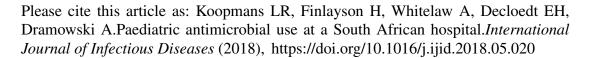
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Paediatric antimicrobial use at a South African hospital

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Background: Data on antimicrobial use among hospitalised children in Africa is very limited owing to

the absence of electronic prescription tracking.

Methods: We evaluated antimicrobial consumption rates, antimicrobial spectrum used and

indications for therapy on a paediatric ward and the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at Tygerberg

Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa. Antimicrobial prescription and patient demographic data was

prospectively collected from 10 May 2015 to 11 November 2015. For the same period, data on

antimicrobials dispensed and costs were extracted from the pharmacy's electronic medicine

management system. The volume of dispensed antimicrobials (dispensing data) was compared with

observed antimicrobial use (prescription data).

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