

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1201-9712(18)34430-8
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2018.05.020>
Reference: IJID 3250

To appear in: *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*

Received date: 16-3-2018
Revised date: 24-5-2018
Accepted date: 29-5-2018

Please cite this article as: Koopmans LR, Finlayson H, Whitelaw A, Decloedt EH, Dramowski A. Paediatric antimicrobial use at a South African hospital. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2018.05.020>

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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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