

Table 2 Drug-related information recorded on by prescriptions from public primary health care (PHC) centres: comparison of data from the pre-intervention sites (5 health centres) and post-intervention sites (3 health centres, each receiving a different intervention)

Variable	Pre-intervention ^a		Post-intervention				
	No.	%	Training intervention site		Administrative intervention site		Multiple interventions site
			No.	%	No.	%	%
No of items/prescription	(n = 1182)^b		(n = 100)^b		(n = 100)^b		
1	464	39.3	33	33.0	29	29.0	100.0
2	295	25.0	41	41.0	43	43.0	0.0
3	283	23.9	26	26.0	23	23.0	0.0
4	140	11.8	0	0.0	5	5.0	0.0
Type of medication prescribed	(n = 1182)^b		(n = 100)^b		(n = 100)^b		
Antipyretic	78	6.6	51	24.8	42	20.6	21
Antiallergic	73	6.2	23	11.2	26	12.8	15
Antibiotic	520	44.0	31	15.0	34	16.7	17
Vitamin/tonic	62	5.2	21	10.2	25	12.3	23
Other	20	1.7	79	38.8	77	37.8	24
Instructions to pharmacist	(n = 1182)^b		(n = 205)^c		(n = 204)^c		
Legibility of prescription	521	44.1	200	97.6	198	97.1	98
Generic name used	n/r	n/r	205	100.0	204	100.0	100
Strength stated	262	22.2	193	94.2	195	95.6	100
Duration stated	296	25.0	168	82.0	176	86.3	97
Frequency stated	449	38.0	205	100.0	203	99.5	100
Dose stated	487	41.2	205	100.0	204	100.0	100
Instructions for use stated	50	4.2	145	70.7	176	86.3	92
Type of prescription error^d	(n = 2463)^c		(n = 206)^c		(n = 204)^c		
Type A (serious)	3	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
Type B (major nuisance)	198	8.0	8	3.9	94	2.0	2.0
Type C (minor nuisance)	54	2.2	2	0.9	0	0	0.0
Type D (trivial)	209	8.5	5	2.4	8	3.9	5.0

^aSource: [32,33].

^bn = number of prescriptions analysed; ^cn = number of prescribed drugs analysed; ^dNeville et al.'s classification [31].

n/r = not recorded.