

**Table 1 Comparison of drug prescribing habits in public hospitals and private surgeries by province using WHO/INRUD indicators**

| Province/facility                   | No. of drugs per prescription<br>Mean (SD) | % of encounters with $\geq 1$ injection prescribed |      | % of antibiotics prescribed per total responses |      | % of drugs prescribed from EDL |      | % of drugs prescribed generically |      |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|------|---|------|--------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------|------|
|                                     |  | No.  | %    | No.   | %    | No.                            | %    | No.                               | %    |
| <b><i>Limpopo province</i></b>      |  |  |      |   |      |                                |      |                                   |      |
| Public hospitals                    | 3.4 (1.8)                                  | 429  | 9.8  | 1552  | 63.4 | 1409                           | 93.1 | 1367                              | 41.7 |
| Private surgeries                   | 3.7 (1.6)                                  | 152  | 32.9 | 630   | 36.6 | 415                            | 69.0 | 147                               | 21.9 |
| <b><i>Western Cape province</i></b> |  |  |      |   |      |                                |      |                                   |      |
| Public hospitals                    | 3.0 (2.0)                                  | 282  | 6.7  | 902   | 72.8 | 828                            | 92.0 | 859                               | 48.6 |
| Private surgeries                   | 1.9 (2.5)                                  | 124  | 13.7 | 275   | 27.2 | 181                            | 68.0 | 153                               | 27.1 |
| <b><i>Total</i></b>                 |  |  |      |   |      |                                |      |                                   |      |
| Public hospitals                    | 3.2 (2.3)                                  | 721  | 8.3  | 2454  | 68.1 | 2237                           | 92.6 | 2226                              | 45.2 |
| Private surgeries                   | 2.8 (1.3)                                  | 276  | 23.3 | 905   | 31.9 | 596                            | 68.5 | 300                               | 24.5 |
| <i>t</i> - or $\chi^2$ -value       | <i>t</i> = 9.42                            | $\chi^2$ = 18.55                                   |      | $\chi^2$ = 34.34                                |      | $\chi^2$ = 23.38               |      | $\chi^2$ = 29.35                  |      |
| <i>P</i> -value                     | < 0.001                                    | < 0.001  |      | < 0.001   |      | < 0.001                        |      | < 0.001                           |      |

WHO/INRUD = World Health Organization/International Network for Rational Use of Drugs; SD = standard deviation; EDL = essential drugs list.