

Table 3 Distribution of information recorded as instructions to the pharmacist for the first 5 items on prescriptions from public and private primary health care (PHC) centres

Instructions to pharmacist	Public PHC centre items					Private PHC centre items				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
	(n = 1182)	(n = 843)	(n = 382)	(n = 56)	(n = 0)	(n = 1200)	(n = 970)	(n = 517)	(n = 125)	(n = 24)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Legibility of prescription	83.3	93.2	72.8	83.3	–	85.8	85.6	85.9	67.2	83.3
Frequency stated	81.5	60.3	73.6	80.4	–	95.3	89.2	92.0	92.8	95.8
Dose stated	80.6	76.3	80.1	78.6	–	94.0	93.7	90.9	92.0	95.8
Duration stated	46.9	41.5	66.2	46.4	–	56.5	55.5	48.5	34.4	50.0
Strength stated	17.3	59.8	78.0	75.0	–	52.8	44.3	34.6	20.0	29.2
Instructions for use stated	8.7	8.8	5.8	3.6	–	4.0	4.1	3.9	5.6	–

n = number of prescriptions analysed.