

Table 4 Distribution of types of medication prescribed on prescriptions from public and private primary health care centres

Type of medication prescribed	Public PHC centres (n = 2463)		Private PHC centres (n = 2836)		χ^2 -value ^a	P-value
	No.	%	No.	%		
Antibiotic	520	44.0	456	38.0	8.8	0.002
Anti-inflammatory	175	14.8	167	13.9	0.52	NS
Antipyretic	78	6.7	72	6.0	0.36	NS
Antiallergic	73	6.2	71	5.9	0.07	NS
Vitamin/tonic	62	5.3	64	5.3	0.01	NS
Gastric acid blocker	63	5.3	59	4.8	0.21	NS
Bronchodilator	47	4.0	46	3.7	0.03	NS
Antiemetic	38	3.2	40	3.4	0.03	NS
Hypoglycaemic	30	2.5	40	3.4	1.32	NS
Corticosteroid	15	1.3	39	3.3	10.6	0.001
Antispasmodic	32	2.7	35	2.9	0.10	NS
Expectorant	10	0.9	30	2.3	9.9	0.001
Cardiovascular drug	11	0.9	30	2.3	8.7	0.003
Antidepressant	8	0.7	17	1.4	3.14	NS
Other	20	1.7	34	2.8	3.50	NS

^aDegrees of freedom = 1.

n = number of drugs prescribed; NS = non-significant.