**Global divergence from WHO treatment guidelines for neonatal and paediatric sepsis**

***Abstract***

We used data from two global point prevalence surveys of antibiotic prescribing to describe treatment of sepsis in hospitalised neonates and children. 185/824 neonates (22.5%) and 9/786 children (1.1%) received a WHO-recommended first-line treatment; of the remainder, 9/639 neonates (1.4%) and 102/777 children (13.1%) received a WHO-recommended second-line treatment. Reasons for this low adherence to guidance should be explored.