

# IMPACT OF A PREFORMATTED OUTPATIENT PRESCRIPTION FORM FOR ANTI-HIV DRUGS

Devaud Jean-Christophe<sup>1</sup>, Voirol Pierre<sup>1</sup>, Cavassini Matthias<sup>2</sup>, Pannatier André<sup>1</sup>

Dept of Pharmacy (1) and HIV outpatient clinic (2) University Hospital (CHUV), Lausanne, Switzerland

## Background

- Prescription is a crucial step in the pharmacological treatment of patients.
- Occurrence of errors in prescription is well documented .
- A preformatted form may improve the quality of prescription.
- A prescription form listing all the antiretroviral drugs available on the Swiss market with their dosage and package size was developed and used by the HIV outpatient clinic since February 2004.

## Objective

The goal of the study was to evaluate the impact of this prescription form on the quality of prescription on a pharmaceutical point of view.

## Design

Completeness of prescription on the preformatted form (fig 1) was evaluated over a nine-month period in 2004 and compared to the traditional prescription forms (fig 2) over the same period one year before (2003).

Fig 1: Preformatted form (real size)

Fig 2: Traditional form (real size)

## Setting

- Department of Pharmacy and HIV outpatient clinic of a large university hospital.

## Main outcome measures

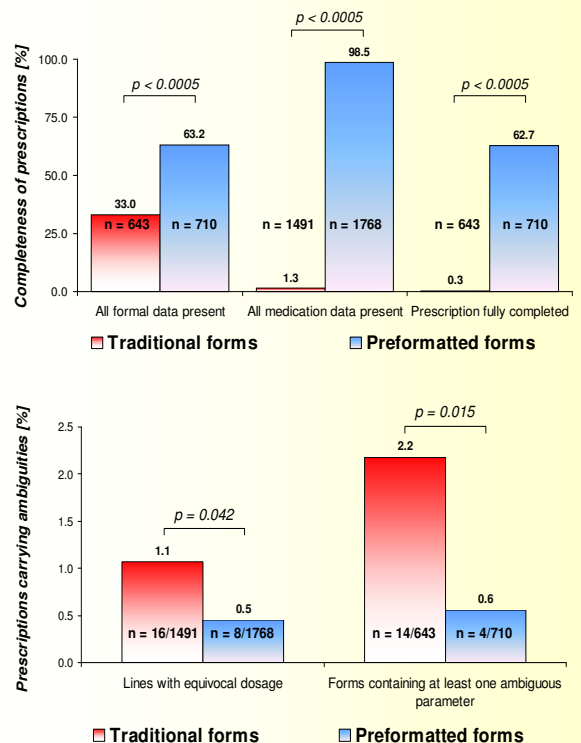
- Presence on the prescription form of the formal and the medication related data (table 1).
- Ambiguous prescriptions on both types of prescription forms.
- Occurrence of new types of errors linked to the preformatted form

Table 1: Items required for a prescription considered as fully completed

Formal data	Medication related data
- Prescribers' name	- Name
- Affiliation	- Dosage
- Date	- Pharmaceutical form
- Stamp and signature	- Daily dose
- Patients' name	- Frequency of administration
- Patients' age	- Size of package
	- Number of refill

## Results

	Traditional	Preformatted
Number of prescription forms	643	710
Number of lines of prescription	1491	1768
Mean number of drug prescribed	2.3	2.5



- Confusion between lines on the preformatted form appears as a new kind of error (29 cases/1768 lines, 1.6%).

## Conclusions

- The preformatted prescription clearly improves the quality of prescription but may generate new kind of errors.
- The prescription form will therefore be adapted based on the conclusions of the study.