

**Table 3: Comparison of observed physician management with management recommended by sore throat score**

Aspect of management	Basis of management decision; no. (and %) of patients				% change†
	Physician judgement*		Score recommendation		
<b>All patients</b>					
Antibiotic prescription	173/619	(27.9)	77/580†	(13.3)	-52.3‡
Unnecessary antibiotic prescription§	109/598	(18.2)	38/580	(6.6)	-63.7‡
Throat swab for culture	316/618	(51.1)	190/580	(32.8)	-35.8‡
<b>Adults (≥ 15 yr)</b>					
Antibiotic prescription	120/453	(26.5)	21/425	(4.9)	-81.5‡
Unnecessary antibiotic prescription	85/441	(19.3)	10/425	(2.4)	-87.6‡
Throat swab for culture	206/450	(45.8)	117/425	(27.5)	-40.0‡
<b>Children (3–14 yr)</b>					
Antibiotic prescription	53/165	(32.1)	56/155	(36.1)	+12.5
Unnecessary antibiotic prescription	24/156	(15.4)	28/155	(18.1)	+17.5
Throat swab for culture	109/167	(65.3)	73/155	(47.1)	-27.9‡

\*Some totals are less than 621 because of missing prescription data or because of missing clinical information needed to calculate score. There was 1 encounter with missing age data.

†Percent change was calculated on the basis of the percentages in the preceding columns. A negative value here means that the percentage of prescriptions, unnecessary prescriptions or throat cultures would have been lower if the score recommendation had been followed instead of physician judgement. A positive value means that the percentage of these variables would have been higher if the score recommendation had been followed.

‡ $p < 0.01$ .

§Antibiotic prescribed but culture result negative.

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