

Monitoring Overall Use of Antimicrobials

Here is an example of one way to measure overall antibiotic use, while monitoring “squeezing the balloon” phenomenon. Over time, the graph shows a reduction in overall days of therapy per 1000 patient days, indicating a potential reduction in overall costs.

However, note in the Jul–Sep 2016 bar (highlighted in red) the decrease in carbapenems with an increase in cephalosporins and aminoglycosides, resulting in no change in overall antibiotic utilization compared to previous months (“squeezing the balloon”).

Days of Antibiotic Therapy per 1000 Patient Days

