

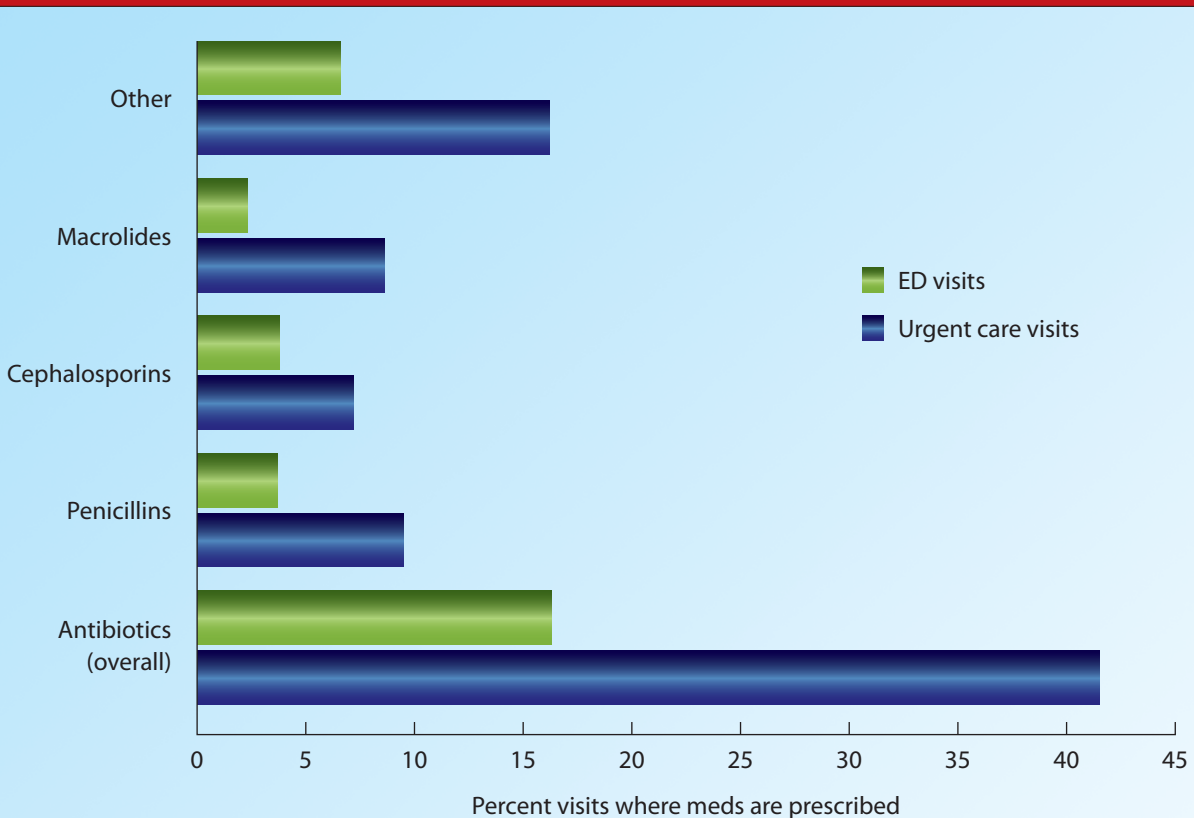


DEVELOPING DATA

In each issue on this page, we report on research from or relevant to the emerging urgent care marketplace. This month, we begin delving into a report whose top-line data made headlines around the country recently. The article, *Many Emergency Department Visits Could Be Managed at Urgent Care Centers and Retail Clinics*,¹ went beyond the conclusion stated in its title, offering a snapshot of how patients exercise their freedom to choose among those three settings.

One particular data set compared medications prescribed in the urgent care center vs. those prescribed in the ED. This month, we spotlight the rate at which various classes of antibiotics are prescribed.

ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING



Reference

1. Weinick RM, Burns RM, Mehrotra A. *Health Affairs*. 2010;29(9):1630-1636.

By extension, these data tell us a little something about the complaints patients self-determine as appropriate for the urgent care setting. Do they reflect what you see in your practice?

In future issues, we will look at other therapeutic classes, as well as data on diagnoses treated at the urgent care, ED, and retail clinic levels.

If you are aware of new data that you've found useful in your practice, let us know via e-mail to editor@jucm.com. We'll share your discovery with your colleagues in an upcoming issue of *JUCM*.