Group A B-hemolytic streptococci (GABHS) is the only common cause of sore throat that warrants the use of antibiotics. GABHS is cultured in approximately 5 to 17% of adults presenting symptoms of sore throat and 15% to 36% of children. The antibiotics recommended for its treatment are penicillin and erythromycin. A study run in 1992 showed that approximately 76% of adults and 71% of children diagnosed with pharyngitis where given antibiotics. The frequency of antibiotic use is much greater than the prevalence of GABHS.

We undertook the retrospective analysis of the charts of patients who visited TEREM in 2006 with a chief complaint of sore throat. We noted whether a throat culture was performed, the result of the culture if it was performed, whether antibiotics were prescribed, when the antibiotics where prescribed (i.e., before or after the results of the culture had come in), which antibiotic was prescribed, and in what dosage.

This is an ongoing study for which the results have not yet been determined. The data recovered from the charts is being combined with data from different years and data compiled after a new, stricter, discharge procedure was implemented at the end of 2007.