BACKGROUND
The analysis of Non-formulary drugs (NFD) most frequently prescribed is important in managing a hospital’s formulary.

PURPOSE
Determine the most frequently prescribed and dispensed NFD in a 376 bed community hospital.

MATERIAL AND METHOD
The hospital’s NFD policy demands physicians to submit a request form, which must be validated by a pharmacist prior to its dispensation. A retrospective descriptive study was conducted with information collected from NFD applications received between January and June 2009.

RESULTS
- 1504 applications received
- 296 different NFD dispensed

The most dispensed drugs:
- Levetirazetam
- Trazodona
- Escitalopram

Anatomical group of NFD:
- Nervous system: 56.4%
- Cardiovascular: 14.4%

Causes of NFD prescription:
- No alternative available in the hospital’s formulary
- Outpatient’s medication

- Different strengths or dosage forms of formulary products represented 11.4% of applications.
- 8% of NFD had a formulary alternative through the hospital’s Therapeutic Interchange Program, but were not accepted by physicians.
- The Internal Medicine Department held 31.7% of the applications, while the Psychiatry Department prescribed more number of NFD/patient
- The majority of NFD requested were already in stock and accounted the acquisition cost of NFD for 0.95% of total drug spending in this period.

CONCLUSIONS
- Most of the NFD prescribed were related to the nervous system, followed by cardiovascular ones.
- Most of medications were rarely needed, while a low number of drugs caused the majority of the prescriptions.
- A significant percentage of NFD were different forms of formulary products and drugs with a formulary therapeutic alternative.