BACKGROUND
Prescribing faults and errors in the act of writing can be harmful to patients. There are many studies on errors in manual prescription of chemotherapy or medication for inpatients, but there are not many about investigational products prescription.

PURPOSE
To quantify and to analyze errors in oral investigational product (oral IP) prescriptions for oncohaematologic outpatients included in a clinical trial (CT).

MATERIALS AND METHODS
A descriptive and prospective study was conducted from August to September 2015.

Inclusion criteria: oral IP prescriptions for outpatients from Oncology and Haematology Departments.

Data about investigators and service, CT’s code and title and investigational products requested (strength, dosage, quantity, kit number, etc.) are collected in our ORAL IP prescription formulary.

We established 4 error categories for each item to complete from prescription formulary: erroneous data, omitted data, incomplete/unreadable data and wrong location data.

Measured variables were: service, number of oral IP prescribed, number and type of mistakes.

RESULTS
A total of 253 prescriptions from 69 different CT were analyzed, 74.5% belonged to the Oncology Department.

A total of 1681 errors (5.4±1.8 errors/oral IP) were detected. The mean of errors in ONCOLOGY prescriptions was 5.3±1.8 errors/oral IP and 5.9±1.8 errors/oral IP in HEMATOLOGY prescriptions.

CONCLUSIONS
• The high prevalence of errors highlights the necessity to take measures in order to reduce errors, such as assisted electronic prescription, what can be particularly benefit to oral IP prescription.
• A large percentage of these errors are preventable and awareness of this issue among health care professionals plays a key role in promoting effective safety practices to reduce their incidence.