Survey design phase

**Research design**
- Literature review: survey and questionnaire design best practice.
- Expert panel recruitment
  - Paediatric cardiologists (1 Austria, 2 Netherlands, 2 Hungary, 1 Serbia, 2 UK)
  - Clinical pharmacologist (1 Germany)
  - Paediatric clinical pharmacologists (1 Germany, 1 Serbia)
  - Paediatric intensive care (1 Netherlands)
  - Survey analysis expert (1 Germany)
- Study population selection
  - Target population: physicians working in the field of paediatric cardiology across European hospitals, with the aim to have representation of each hospital in Europe (47 member states of the Council of Europe + Belarus). Hospitals were eligible if contact data of a physician could be identified:
    - European and national paediatric cardiology associations (e.g. AEPC)
    - Websites of hospitals, congresses and conferences relevant to the field
    - Heads of European and some national paediatric cardiology associations were approached and requested to share the survey invitation with their organization members

**Initial questionnaire**
(list of questions, instructions for participants, e-mails)

**Questionnaire review and final design**
- Questionnaire internal peer review at the investigators site: comments, revisions and re-submission
- First round of the expert panel review and pre-testing: comments and revisions
- Second round of the expert panel review and pilot-testing (9 of the experts participated)
- Validity and reliability testing
- Finalising invitations, reminder emails (physicians from English, German, Spanish, French and Italian speaking countries were addressed in their own languages) and postal reminders

**Final questionnaire**

**Survey instrument administration phase**

Physicians were invited via e-mail to participate, receiving an individualised participation web-survey link. E-mail reminders were sent to non-respondents approx. 2, 4 and 6 weeks after the first invitation. A final postal reminder was sent approx. on week 12 after study start. Informed consent was obtained from each participant.

Response rate calculation: number of different hospitals from which at least one physician submitted a completed or partially completed questionnaire divided by the number of different hospitals from which a physician was sent the invitation with questionnaire link.

Hospitals were excluded from analysis if physician contacted expressed his wish not to participate, did not feel able to participate because of limited experience, was retired or returned the completed questionnaire after the pre-established deadline. If more than one physician in a hospital answered, only the first questionnaire received was taken into consideration for analysis.

**Figure S1.** Survey study and survey instrument design and administration