**Veterinary Medicines Directorate** **AMR workshop 14th December at 2pm-3pm**

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| **Workshop** | **Time and date** | **Content** |
| Antimicrobial Resistance | 2pm – 3pm  14 December 2021 | * Prophylaxis and metaphylaxis:   + definitions   + group prophylaxis * Antibiotic use data collection * In-feed antibiotic medication |
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Over 70 participants representing the different sectors.

Meeting consisted of a powerpoint presentation by Fraser Broadfooot, and slides will be shared at some point and I will then circulate around SVS exec committee. My notes below and my initial thoughts re sheep sector in blue.

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 will be updated in light of the application of EU regulations 219/4 and 219/6 from January 2022.

A consultation about these changes will take place in 2022, details on [www.gov.uk/vmd](http://www.gov.uk/vmd) for updates.

In light of changes to EU regs there will be a consultation next year on vet med regulations. Date not available yet. Today’s meeting considering only antimicrobials and a few key aspects. Aim is to not lower our standards and any regs must tackle inappropriate use and further improve antibiotic stewardship.

Feedback will be sought on the proposals in terms of suitability, fit for purpose, whether they meet the needs of GB. Positive feedback and negative feedback sought. Particularly regarding any likely unintended consequences and any alternatives that will achieve the aims.

**Prophylaxis / Metaphylaxis EU 2019 / 6 article 107** – the full definitions in the legislation were given

Metaphylaxis – treatment of a group where clinical disease has been established . Aim is to treat sick animals,and co ntrol the spread of disease and treat those subclinical affected.

Propylaxis – treatment before signs of disease to prevent the occurrence of a disease or infection.

In group prophylaxis antimicrobials shall not be used for prophylaxis other than in exceptional circumstances.

Eg risk of disease is very high and consequences are likely to be severe. Limited to administration of antimicrobrials to individual animals only . No group treatments, especially in feed or water medications.

but, in brief, the former consists of prevention, latter consists of treatment of a group (needs defining) where disease has been confirmed in a group. Aim is to avoid the ‘just in case’ treatments or routine use of antimicrobials to compensate for poor management / husbandry / hygiene / biosecurity. Limits to duration of treatment only to cover period of risk, where alternatives do not exist and where consequence of not treating metaphylactically are severe. May be more pertinent in pig and poultry sectors.

VMD propose to adopt the same wording as in EU Vet med regs.

In terms of sheep sector what comes under this umbrella? Treatment of lambs for watery mouth? In feed decoquinate for coccidiosis and toxo prevention. Anything else? Looking broader than antimicrobials does this include anthelmintics, flukicdes, ectoparasiticides e.g dipping for tick / fly / scab control? It’s probably premature to consider anything other than antimicrobials at this stage I hope.

As far as I understood this, it currently only relates to antimicrobials.

**Data collection** –article 57 - sales and usage data at various point along supply chain. Plan in EU regs is stepwise so starting with pigs, poultry, cattle gathering data in 2023 for publication in 2024; other food producing species including sheep data from 2026 to be published in 2027;; 2029 data from cats / dogs to be published in 2030.

Issues regarding voluntary versus mandatory. GB has made good progress so far with RUMA targets on a voluntary basis. VMD line at present is that there is still more that can be achieved on a voluntary basis and so continue with this but with room to move to compulsory data collection if necessary. Clearly full coverage will not be possible across all sectors if this is voluntary.

For sheep sector I think this issue will be data quality and collection. The EMedHub is a tool to get the data, and its adoption will be part of the AHWPathway in England but unclear what level of engagement there will be in the Pathway and it doesn’t cover Wales, Scotland, NIreland.

**Medicated feed:** 2019/4 article 16 aim to limit use of open ended prescriptions and prolonged use. So limited to no more than 1 month and no more than 2 weeks in the case of antimicrobials unless specified in SPC. Only one antibiotic in feed at a time to ensure use us targeted to likely pathogens. Prescription for in-feed antimicrobials valid for 5 days from date of issue to getting the feed onto a farm. Plan is to adopt the EU legislation on this.

For sheep sector – I think in –feed antimicrobial use is limited to the antiprotozoal decoquinate for toxo or coccidiosis. It would be nice to have some sales / usage data to establish if this is significant. SPC for deccox advises use for 28 days for coccidiosis and 14 weeks continuous use prelambing for ewes to prevent toxo. The latter is rarely practical as it doesn’t fit with ewe management / feeding Clearly there is a good vaccine for toxoplasmosis and other treatments / management for coccidiosis. Logistics of getting prescription to on farm medicated feed within 5 days was highlighted by some on the call.

**‘Delegated and implementing acts’** – this concerns a list to be drawn up in EU regs (and not yet available) of antimicrobials considered as critical and to be reserved for treatment of certain infections in humans and necessary to preserve efficacy. It will apply to 3rd countries when exporting to the EU. This won’t be included in the consultation but could impact some sectors in terms of export requirements.

That was the limit of the meeting, though there was some discussion re pig / poultry sectors and metaphylaxis and slight concern that animal welfare wasn’t mentioned though I kind of thought this was implicit in the RUMA targets that VMD support.