

FACTS

PRUDENT ANTIBIOTIC USE

The use of antibiotics, modified live vaccines and other prescription animal health products like pain mitigations play an essential role in animal health and animal care. The transportation, storage and use of these products require Veterinary oversight to ensure proper precautions are understood by the producer to avoid potential hazards, antimicrobial resistance, and diminished efficacy. VBP+ producers receive training to understand the importance of prudent and proper use of prescription animal health products, and how to navigate the path to these essential products.



VETERINARIAN CLIENT PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

The path to responsible antibiotic use begins at the Veterinary Clinic. For a producer to purchase animal health product, Health Canada requires veterinary oversight. This oversight begins with the veterinarian being familiar with you and your operation. The vet may prescribe products suited to your specific animals needs based on risks that pertain to your operation. Products for prevention of disease plus products for treatment of disease can be strategically coupled with use of protocols designed to reduce costs, reduce morbidity, reduce death loss, increase efficacy of products used, and provide optimum animal care. These Vet Client Patient Relationships (VCPR) are essential for producers to obtain prescription products. This begins with a visit from your Vet to your operation. For VBP+ producers, being able to show a business relationship with a Vet Clinic through invoices or labels from the clinic is all that is required. The Vet Clinic must be able to provide emergency after hours services if required and provide an after hours on call contact number.

PRESCRIPTIONS: PURCHASES AND EXTRA LABEL DRUG USE (ELDU)

There are two types of prescriptions. One, those that are written for animal health products to be purchased and the other is an instruction for animal health products that may not be used according to label directions, or used in conjunction with another antibiotic. A vet clinic with a valid

VCPR with a producer can write a prescription for a product that may be dispensed at any other vet clinic or pharmacy, or be dispensed by the clinic that writes the prescription. That is a business relationship between the producer and the vet clinic of choice. Products used for treatment of disease not listed on the label, or used at dosage levels above or below label recommendations must be covered off with a prescription from the prescribing veterinarian. VBP+ auditors will review prescriptions on an audit. **Prescriptions must have the date, name of operation, dosage used, withdrawal time, be signed by the Vet, and be reviewed and renewed annually.**

Some operations use a system where attending veterinarians write detailed patient notes about pens, herds, or groups of identified cattle and take full responsibility for the products, diagnosis's, and dosages used as well as stated withdrawal times. These notes are



dated and signed by the Veterinarian(s) after every visit. The intent of these various methods is to reduce risks of antimicrobial resistance, and to provide predictable withdrawal times to reduce food safety risks.

VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED ANIMAL HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Vet Clinics may create animal health protocols that are designed specifically for individual operations based on the unique working details of the operation. These tailor-made management directives are a direct result of producers and their veterinarian(s) working hand in hand to ensure the best possible outcomes for the operations livestock. They often contain specific treatments, specific disease prevention methods including biosecurity precautions and other management intervention practices best suited to the operation. These protocols when signed by the attending veterinarian and reviewed annually can replace ELDU prescriptions as long as withdrawal times are specifically noted.

ANIMAL HEALTH TREATMENT RECORDS

Producers have access to a host of record keeping options either digital software or written paper formats. VBP+ auditors will examine any method the producer chooses. It is important for the producer to understand that the auditor is looking for compliance to the VBP+ program. Some methods producers use to meet compliance are easy, and some are not. **A review of requirements is as follows: animals must be able to be identified either as an individual or as a specific group, date animal(s) received an animal health product, what the diagnosis is (or the symptoms; eg. swollen fetlock), product used, route of administration, dosage, withdrawal time of the product.** It is also recommended to record who administered the treatment. The intent of the records is to be able to accurately predict when it is safe to ship animals or salvage an animal that is injured. The records must be retrievable in a manner that allows the producer to accurately identify an animal that is not safe to harvest in a pre-shipping validation record. It is important to note that if a treatment error occurs, for example, a wrong dose, or wrong route of administration, that the error is recorded, a veterinarian is contacted and a corrected withdrawal time is recorded based on the veterinarians recommendations.

TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS

When transporting and storing animal health products do so according to label directions. Products that require a cool temperature must be kept cool, and products designated to be kept in the dark can not be allowed to contact sunlight. These measures ensure the products stay stable to maintain efficacy, and to provide the best possibility to provide accurate predictable withdrawal times. VBP+ auditors will examine the storage of these products, look for expired products which should be used only on your veterinarians approval. Products should be grouped according to species so that inadvertent use in the wrong animal is avoided.

ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN SIMPLE COW/CALF PROTOCOL

YOUR OPERATION NAME

DATE

ANNUAL VACCINE & PARASITE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

Annual Vaccine Protocol for Mature Cows
Annual Vaccine Protocol for Replacement Heifers
Annual Vaccine Protocol for Mature Bulls
Annual Vaccine Protocol for Calves (Spring & Fall)
Any others as needed on Operation

TREATMENT PROTOCOLS

MATURE CATTLE

Lameness (Infection) First/Second Treatment Option
Eye Infection First/Second Treatment Option
Respiratory First/Second Treatment Option
Reproductive and Calving Infection First/Second Treatment Option
Treatment Options when using Remote Drug Delivery Devices
Any others as needed on Operation

CALVES

Scours Management First Treatment Option
Scours Management Second Treatment Option
Naval Infection First/Second Treatment Options
Respiratory First Treatment Option
Respiratory Second Treatment Option
Any others as needed on Operation

SIGNED BY VETERINARIAN

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US AT

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