



Oversight of Veterinary Antimicrobial Use in Canada

Canadian Council of Chief Veterinary
Officers' Position

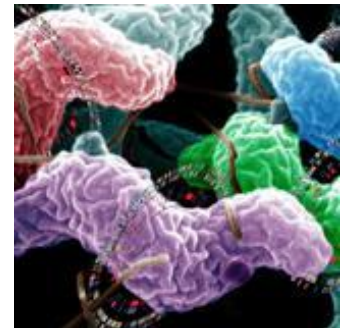
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- The Council of Chief Veterinary Officers (CCVO) supports prudent use of medically important antimicrobials in both animals and humans.
 - an important principle to minimize the risk AMR.
- This includes strengthening veterinary oversight



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- Increasing veterinary oversight is an important part of antimicrobial stewardship.
- However, making medically important antibiotics available by veterinary prescription only, on its own, without other stewardship measures, is unlikely to decrease agricultural antimicrobial use (AMU) or reduce AMR.
- A holistic approach is required.



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- In addition to veterinary prescription requirements, other actions must include:
 - education and regulation of veterinarians,
 - education of end users,
 - comprehensive surveillance of agricultural AMU and AMR, and
 - amending regulations to prevent the importation of active pharmaceutical ingredients or antimicrobials for own use.



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- Addressing AMR is a shared responsibility in Canada.
- The CCVO supports:
 - the development of a national action plan by all stakeholders.
 - the development and implementation of comprehensive AMU and AMR surveillance programs in Canada.
- The oversight mechanism must be transparent to the public to maintain agriculture's social license to use antimicrobials.

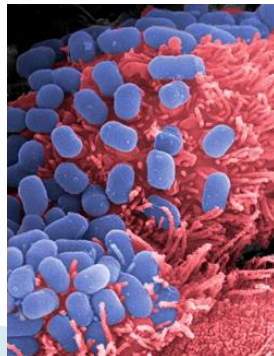


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- Enhancing veterinary oversight of agricultural AMU will ensure that use is guided by veterinarians that have the knowledge to make prudent animal treatment decisions.
- However, this has the potential to raise concerns about the appearance of conflict of interest of veterinarians acting as both the prescribers and dispensers.
- This concern should be part of the discussion on increased veterinary oversight.

Summary

- Increasing veterinary oversight is important for AMU stewardship, but must strike the balance between reducing the public health risks while maintaining a competitive agricultural industry.
- The social license that anchors veterinary access to antimicrobials must be supported by an appropriate regulatory framework plus other actions.



Summary

- This will require a collaborative approach between federal and provincial governments, industry stakeholders, and veterinary regulatory bodies to ensure that the system aligns across Canada and fits into a global strategy to address AMR and AMU in humans and animals.
 - Should also consider the expectations of our domestic and international consumers.

