

Update from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

on recent Antimicrobial Stewardship Activities

NFAHWC Forum 2018

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Dr Shane Renwick, Manager of National Issues and Animal Welfare at CVMA updated participants on two initiatives currently underway.

1. CVMA Guidelines for Veterinary Antimicrobial Use

On Nov 30, 2018, the CVMA released its new on-line platform: “CVMA Guidelines for Veterinary Antimicrobial Use”. The new application builds off of the previous 2008 Prudent Use Guidelines for Antimicrobial Use (PUGS). The original scope of four species groups (beef, dairy, poultry swine) has been expanded in the 2018 guidelines to include small ruminants and companion animals. Additional fields were added including brand trade names, labeled vs. extra-label use and Health Canada Category. The shift to electronic format will allow for: more frequent updating of the information and addition of new resources’ accessibility via a variety of devices (e.g. laptop, tablet, smartphone); and a searchable interface and filtering for quicker access to information.

The Guidelines will be integrated with the existing CVMA website and will allow for layered access to veterinarians for some material via members and non-member veterinarian accounts, while still allowing public to access initial screens (but not the database). This integration will: create a common look and feel, eliminate the need to create brand new accounts for all veterinarians in Canada; ensure that material will continue to be addressed from a national veterinary perspective. Piloting was undertaken with subject matter experts and their teams and updating and further development will continue on an evergreen basis.

2. Proposal for a National Veterinary Oversight System for AMU

1. The CVMA has applied under CFIA’s Financial Assistance Program and AAFC’s Agri-Assurance program for resources to develop a National Veterinary Oversight System for AMU. As of Dec 1 2018, the review of the AAFC portion of the proposal is continuing. The purpose of the project will be the creation of a sustainable operating model of a national veterinary AMU oversight system, comprised of both AMU stewardship and AMU assurance components that are mutually supporting. The initiative will supply the blueprint and lessons learned consistent with a vision of a national approach spanning

more animal species of interest and encompassing the entire range of antimicrobials, including both water-soluble and injectable-based products. Activities associated with the AMU stewardship stream will build on the existing electronic platform generated for the updated veterinary guidelines for AMU. Data collection associated with the AMU assurance stream of the project will focus initially on in-feed antimicrobial use in three major species: beef, poultry and swine. The initiative will produce data in keeping with the industry-led establishment of an AMU minimum data set for Canada. The project will be governed under CVMA oversight. It will receive guidance from an Expert Advisory Group of key stakeholders led by a Champion from the veterinary community.

Activities will include:

- Development of information sharing agreements and the legal framework for the transfer and exchange of AMU surveillance data;
- Development of a repository for AMU data extracted and collated from prescription and dispensing activities undertaken by veterinary clinics and feed mills;
- Engagement of veterinary clinics and feed mills with existing databases to extract their data in the appropriate format;
- Engagement of off-the-shelf prescription software provider to conduct a pilot with veterinary clinics without sophisticated databases for prescription/dispensing activities;
- Expansion of the scope of the Veterinary AMU Guidelines into the Aquaculture and Equine sectors; and
- Expansion of the stewardship platform to include a dedicated area for non-antimicrobial alternative treatments and associated tools.

Successful development of the NVOS assurance system will contribute to the following outcomes:

- Promotes science-based AMU stewardship and initiation of cultural change within the profession with the provision of up-to-date AMU guidelines, alternatives to AMU treatments and other decision-making tools;
- Enables the targeting of AMU stewardship activities to support better veterinary decision-making and improved animal health and welfare outcomes;
- Delivers proof-of-concept of AMU data collection and analysis at the veterinary level in the form of a sustainable operating model;
- As aligned with industry efforts towards standardization of AMU data, and in conjunction with other sources of data (including pharmaceutical sales data and industry farm-level data), provides a clearer picture of national AMU;
- Supports national reporting of AMU to international authorities; and

- Signals to consumers, trading partners and the international community that Canada is aggressively adopting a systematic and multidimensional approach towards antimicrobial stewardship.