The way you purchase antibiotics is changing

By **December 2018,** you'll need a prescription to buy virtually any livestock antibiotic. Later this year Health Canada will introduce major changes to how livestock producers across Canada can access antibiotics. The new policy does not apply to ionophores, which are not considered to be medically important.

Starting **December 1, 2018,** all livestock producers will need a prescription from a licenced veterinarian before they can buy a medically important antibiotic (MIA) for therapeutic use in livestock production. This applies to all beef cattle sectors - cow-calf operators, backgrounders and feedlots. The new policy doesn't just apply to injectable products, but also includes some boluses, calf scour treatments, in-feed & in-water antibiotics, and implants that contain MIA.

For example, producers will no longer be able to buy a bottle of penicillin or tetracycline to treat common infections such as foot rot, pink eye or mastitis without a valid prescription. Feed mills will only be allowed to sell certain medicated feed formulations if they are given a valid prescription, and will no longer be able to sell antibiotics directly to producers for on-farm mixing.

MIA (medically important antibiotic):

Drugs considered to be essential for the treatment of bacterial infections in humans, as classified by Health Canada.

VCPR (veterinary-client-patient relationship):

In simple terms, your veterinarian understands your operation, your management practices, your herd, and common health issues well enough to provide meaningful advice and oversight.

All producers will need to establish a vet-client-patient relationship (VCPR) before they can obtain a prescription for a MIA.

Once a valid VCPR and medical need has been established with a licenced veterinarian, a producer will be able to obtain a prescription for a given amount of product over a specified period of time. Prescriptions can be valid for up to a year, allowing producers to refill as needed if that is what the veterinarian advises.

For example, a cow-calf producer can design a herd health protocol with their veterinarian, based on a working knowledge of their operation, health records and herd history. This protocol may anticipate medical need for treatment of specific conditions like pinkeye or footrot, and then a prescription can be written to cover the estimated amount required (X bottles of Alamycin LA or Nuflor) throughout the year. This way, the producer can buy medication as needed up to the estimated amount, or up to the expiry date of the prescription. Producers who already have a strong relationship with their veterinarian likely won't see any change in normal practices.

Why the change?

This directive from Health Canada, as a part of a worldwide awareness of and response to antibiotic resistance issues, aims to:

1. Ensure antibiotics are used appropriately in animal agriculture to avoid or slow the development of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. As a result, currently available antibiotics will remain effective for a longer period of time.
2. Strengthen public trust by demonstrating responsibility and appropriate use; showing that products are only used when needed, at the appropriate dose and duration, and observing proper withdrawal times.

Where these prescriptions can be filled may vary from province to province. Some provinces may only allow veterinarians or pharmacists to sell antibiotics; others may approve other distribution channels.

A list of the beef cattle products that will be impacted is shown on the reverse.

This document was developed by:

BCRC BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH COUNCIL

SINCE 1969 Alberta Beef Producers

to highlight the changes associated with the Government of Canada's polices related to medically-important antibiotics.

Common Questions

Q: How do I avoid costs and inconvenience?

A: Work with a veterinarian to see how your current preventative health program can be strengthened to reduce the likelihood of sickness and disease. Reviewing your nutrition and feeding program and feed test results with a nutritionist is also important; optimal nutrition is key to keeping animals healthy enough to resist disease, and to ensure optimal vaccine performance.

Veterinarians see a lot of different beef operations, which gives them the opportunity to professionally observe and evaluate a wide variety of management and health programs, see what works (and doesn't), and make appropriate recommendations. For example, veterinarians have the expertise to appropriately customize your vaccination and parasite control programs so that they more effectively prevent the disease risks and challenges your herd faces. In the end, you may find that veterinary costs turn out to be an investment that improves your bottom line.

Q: Will a veterinarian need to directly examine every sick animal on farm before writing a prescription?

A: Not necessarily, provided you have a valid VCPR.

Q: Will a veterinarian need to administer the antibiotic?

A: No, provided you have a valid VCPR. Once the antibiotic has been purchased, producers can continue to administer the antibiotic to their animals themselves.

Q: Will I need a new prescription every time I need to use antibiotics?

A: Not necessarily. Work with your veterinarian to plan ahead, develop a herd health protocol, and have prescriptions on file that can be filled if necessary.

Q: What if a veterinarian does not service my area?

A: You can establish a VCPR with a vet that is not local, provided they are licensed to practice in your province (e.g. consulting veterinarians).

Cattle products containing antibiotics that will require a veterinary prescription in Canada as of December 1, 2018

Category I - Very High Importance in Human Medicine: Essential for treating serious bacterial infections in people; limited or no effective alternative antibiotics available.

Licenced Drug	Brand Names
Ceftiofur Danofloxacin Enrofloxacin Polymixin B	*Note: The following products already require a veterinary prescription: A180, Baytril, Ceftiocyl, Ceftiofur, Cevaxel, EFICUR, Excede, Excenel, Special Formula 17900-Forte Suspension, Spectramast

Category II - High Importance in Human Medicine: Used to treat a variety of infections in people, including serious infections; effective alternative antibiotics are generally available.

Licenced Drug	Brand Names
Ampicillin Cephapirin Dihydro/streptomycin Gamithromycin Gentamycin Neomycin Benzyl/penicillin Tildipirosin Tilmicosin Trimethoprim Tulathromycin Tylosin	*Note: The following products in **bold** are currently available over the counter but will require a veterinary prescription as of Dec. 1, 2018. Products in this category that are already prescription-only are not listed. **Calf Scour Bolus, Component Implants with Tylan (TE-S, E-C, E-H, E-S, TE-100, TE-200, TE-G & TE-H), Depocillin, DP Booster PWS, Enterolyte, Hi-Pencin 300, Hog Scour Suspension, Keraplex, Neo-Chlor, Neo-Tet, NeoMed 325, Neomycin 325, Neomycin SP, NeoOxytet SP, NeoSulf Plus, Neo-Sulfalyte Bolus, Neorease, Neo-Terramycin 50/50, Premix, Neotet Soluble Concentrate, Neo-Tetramed, Novodry Plus Suspension, NSE Bolus, Pen G Injection, Pen Vet 300, Penpro, Penmed, PolyTonine A Super Booster #1, Proc Pen LA, Procaine Penicillin G, Procillin, Propen LA, Pulmotil Premix, Scour-Plug, Scour Boluses, Scour Solution, Scour Suspension, Scour Treat Liquid, Sulectim Plus, Super Booster, Super Scour Calf Bolus, Tilmovet Premix, Tylan 10, 40 & 100 Premix, Tylan 200, Tylosin 10 Premix, Tylosin 40, Vetpen 300, Vibiomed Booster**

Category III - Medium Importance in Human Medicine: Used to treat bacterial infections in people; effective alternative antimicrobials are generally available.

Licenced Drug	Brand Names
Florfenicol Sulfamethazine Chor/oxy/tetracycline	*Note: The following products in **bold** are currently available over the counter but will require a veterinary prescription as of Dec. 1, 2018. Products in this category that are already prescription-only are not listed. **2 Sulfamed, 3-Sulvit, After-Calf Bolus, Alamycin LA, Astringent Powder, Aureo S 700 G & S-700 G Drug Premix for Beef Cattle, Aureomycin 220 G, CalfSpan Tablets, Chlor 100 Medicated Premix, Chlor 50 Granular Premix, Chlor S 700 Granular Premix, Chlortet Vitamin Premix Crumbles, Compudose implant, Co-op Aureomycin Vitamin Premix Crumbles, Co-op Calf Scour Tablets, Cyclosol 200 LA, Deracin 22% Granular Premix, Footrot Boluses, Kanadom Tetracycline Hydrochloride, Liquamycin LA-200, Masterfeeds Chlor S-700 Beef Premix Crumbles, Neutral Sulfa 7 & 50, Noromycin LA, LA 300 & LP, Onycin 250 & 1000, Oxy-250 & 1000, Oxy LA Sterile Injectable, Oxy Tetra Forte & Tetra-A, Oxymycine LA, LA 300 & LP, Oxysol 62.5, 110, 220, 440 Premix, Oxytet 1000 SP, Oxytetracycline 50, 100 & 200 Granular Premix, Oxytetracycline HCl Soluble Powder 1000, Oxytetramycin 100, Oxyvet 100 LP & 200 LA, Powder 21, Proud Flesh Dust, Sodium Sulfamethazine Solution 12.5% & 25%, Sulectim Plus, Sulfa 2 Soluble Powder, Sulfa 25, Sulfa-Zine Powder, Sulfalite Powder Super, Sulfa MT, Sulfa-MT, Sulfa Urea Cream, Sulfamethazine 25% Solution, Sulfamethazine Bolus, Sulfavite, Sulmed Plus, Sustain III Bolus, Terramycin-50, -100 & -200 Premix, Tetra 55, 250, 1000 & 4000, Tetraject LA, Tetracycline 250, Tetracycline Hydrochloride, Tetramed 62.6, 250 & 1000, Triple Sulfa Bolus, Wound Clear Spray, Wound Spray, Wound Treatment**

Category IV - Low Importance in Human Medicine: Not currently used in human medicine.

Licenced Drug	Brand Names
Amprolium Decoquinate Lasalocid Monensin Salinomycin	*Note: These products do not currently require a prescription, and will not require a prescription in the future. Amprol, Ampromed, Avatec, Bovatec, Coban, Coxistac, Deccox, Kexxtone, Monensin, Posistac, Rumensin

This list, created by the Beef Cattle Research Council and Alberta Beef Producers, is accurate to the best of our knowledge as of October 17, 2018 Visit **www.beefresearch.ca/AMR** for the most up to date version.