Pig Veterinary Society: Guidance for members in relation to medicated feed and MFSp completion

The following information is intended as a practical guide to support members in their prescribing decisions and is not intended as a complete summary of the legislative or other framework surrounding these issues, nor as a legal guide. Members are also directed to the other information sources listed at the end of this document.

MFSp (Medicated Feedingstuffs Prescription) Completion

- All prescribing decisions, including those relating to medicated feed, remain the responsibility of the prescribing vet relating to animals 'under their care'.
- Feed compounders cannot supply feed containing POM-V (Prescription only medicine- Vet) medicines unless they are in receipt of a MFSp completed by the prescribing vet.
- The starting point for supply of POM-V medicated feed is the vet decision that treatment is necessary, based on a **clinical diagnosis**, and that supply of medication via the feed is the most appropriate method of delivery of that treatment.
- It should always be remembered that, in the instance of feed medication, the feed is just the vehicle of delivery to the pig, and the most important element here is to make sure that the pig itself is correctly and responsibly treated. Other important elements to consider here include the pathogen(s) involved and it's/ their antibiotic susceptibility, target dose rate in mg/kg liveweight, bodyweight, feed intake, proportion of the daily ration to be medicated, etc.
- Veterinary practice lay staff may assist the prescribing vet with MFSp preparation but the **ultimate responsibility rests with the signing vet relating to animals 'under their care'**. Responsible prescribing can be supported in practice by elements of written veterinary advice such as those contained in the farm's Veterinary Health Plan (VHP) or vet visit report. Effective training of lay staff involved with MFSp preparation, and of newer vets within the practice team, would be considered important elements of good practice within the concept of the 'vet-led team'.

Before they sign any MFSp the prescribing vet should very carefully check all details are correct, to the best of their knowledge, and considering the RCVS Principles of Certification, including:

- Feed compounder, name and address of the pig keeper, and of the pig premises if different.
- Name and type of feed to be medicated including clarity on whether, or not, the medicated feed is a complete ration, premix/ balancer meal or, a wet or dry feed.
- Appropriate volume of feed to be medicated based on their knowledge of the number, type and feed intake of the pigs and, the proportion of their daily ration being medicated and, the length of treatment required.
- Details of the POM(s) to be included including name, inclusion level, active molecule and VM number (this is the unique identifying number issued by VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) for each POM product). Extra care should be exercised when the POM exists (and may be stocked by some compounders) in several different strength premixes.
- Occasionally it may be necessary for a veterinary surgeon to re-issue an existing MFSp which has already been provided. One such example may be where the feed compounder stocks a

different brand but, the same active molecule, to the POM listed on the MFSp. In these situations, the veterinary surgeon should take extra care to consult the SPC for the substituted POM.

- In the case of medication being supplied in a premix or balancer meal, the prescribing vet will need to know the intended mixing rate of these elements in the final ration in order to determine the correct POM inclusion level in the premix or balancer meal. These instructions should also be clearly stated on the MFSp.
- The condition being treated.
- The withdrawal period. Withdrawal periods specified on SPC are **minimum** time periods and the vet can use their discretion to adjust but, not shorten. Please also see further guidance below relating to 'cascade' use. Withdrawal periods are occasionally changed, and vets are encouraged to check on the VMD Product Information Database: https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Search.aspx
- Any special instructions relating to the treatment.
- It is recommended that other feed additives already contained in the feedingstuff should also be listed on the MFSp.
- If the validity exceeds one month, a statement that only one month's requirement of the medicated feed may be manufactured in each 31 day period.
- Signed copies of the MFSp should be sent to the feed compounder and to the animal keeper.
- Copies of completed MFSp should also be retained for inspection for a period of 5 years.

'Cascade' use of POM products in feed

- **Prescribing vets are permitted to prescribe in-feed medication under the cascade**, providing that s/he have sound clinical reasons to justify the 'off label' use. The main caveat is that the product must be authorised for inclusion in feed (please see para 3 of the VMR (Amendments) 2014).
- An example of such cascade use may include treatment of a condition not listed on the SPC. In this instance, the prescribing vet may reasonably be expected to apply the withdrawal period specified on the SPC, so long as the POM is used in line with the SPC in all other respects.
- If the POM is used '**off label'** in other respects, e.g.
  -the duration of treatment is extended beyond that specified in the SPC, or
  -the dosage level is higher than that specified in the SPC, or
  -the product is licensed in another food producing species but, not in pigs,
  then the prescribing vet should specify no less than the 'minimum statutory' withdrawal period, which is **28 days** in the case of pig meat (or longer if the vet feels appropriate). PVS would only consider it acceptable to use a POM-V at dose rates below those indicated on the SPC where there is sound clinical and supporting research evidence and, in such situations, the specified withdrawal period on the SPC should be applied.
- If the prescribing vet specifies inclusion of two POM products in a feed, and both are used within the terms of the relevant SPC, then the longer of the two withdrawal periods may reasonably be applied.
- Further information on setting withdrawal periods can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-cascade-prescribing-unauthorised-medicines#setting-withdrawal-periods

Any adverse events, whether relating to medicines used under the cascade or otherwise, should be reported to VMD: https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/AdverseReactionReporting/Default.aspx

Further information may also be found at:

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations (2013): http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/2033/contents/made

The Veterinary Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2014: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/599/regulation/3

Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Manufacturing and supplying veterinary medicines for animal feed: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/manufacturing-and-supplying-veterinary-medicines-for-animal-feed#medicated-feedingstuffs-prescriptions

Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Adverse Reaction Reporting: https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/AdverseReactionReporting/Default.aspx

NOAH Compendium: http://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/

Responsible use of antibiotics under the 'cascade': https://www.gov.uk/guidance/responsible-antibiotic-use-under-the-prescribing-cascade

BVA Good Practice Guide on Veterinary Medicines: https://www.bva.co.uk/resources-support/veterinary-medicine/veterinary-medicines-good-practice-guide/

PVS Prescribing Principles: https://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/files/document/558/1705%20PVS%20AntiB%20Prescribing%20Policy.pdf

RCVS Principles of Certification: https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/certification/