

*Taqsimat ta' Regolamenti Veterinarji,
Konservazzjoni u Kontroll tas-Sajd*

*Veterinary Regulation, Fisheries
Conservation & Control Division*

Circular Ref: VMANS-ARRD Ref:01/2012

8th April, 2012

To: Managing Pharmacists
Veterinary Pharmaceuticals Wholesale Dealers and Qualified Persons
Veterinarians

Prudent use of veterinary medicinal products containing 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins

Following a series of recommendations from the commission this department would like to forward a number of recommendations regarding the prudent use of veterinary medicinal products containing 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins such as cefquinome, ceftiofur and cefaperazone.

The rationale behind this recommendation is to limit the selection pressure for extended spectrum betalactamases (ESBL2) by avoiding the unnecessary use of these cephalosporins as there is an increasing number of reports of the presence of ESBL and/ or AmpC-producing *Salmonella* and *E. coli* in animals and food

The recommendations are:

- These antimicrobials should be restricted in cases where treatment with another antimicrobial has failed.
- These antimicrobials should never be used for disease prevention or as a part of herd health programmes.
- Treatment should be done for the individual animals. Treatment of groups of animals should be strictly limited to ongoing disease outbreaks according to the approved conditions of use.
- Since no MRL is established in poultry these antimicrobials cannot be used in this species. In fact administration to Poultry is a contraindication and if this indication is present in the Product information it is not in compliance with EU legislation.

It should be emphasised that use in poultry (including eggs) would entail a high risk for spread of ESBL to humans via food due to dissemination in the poultry production pyramid. Treatment of eggs and/or one day-olds in grandparent and parent flocks could lead to dissemination to a large number of animals in the following generation with spread to numerous farms in different countries. There is evidence of correlation between such use of cephalosporins and resistant infections in humans.

This department encourages all those responsible to abide by these recommendations and you are also reminded that the use in poultry is not permitted.

This is to avoid the development of resistance to this category of antimicrobial agents in bacterial species that are of importance for human and animal health.

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Veterinary medicines and animal nutrition section

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