

**ACTIVITIES FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM FOR RATIONAL USE OF
ANTIMICROBIAL VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS
(Experience of the Member States of the World Organization for Animal Health
(OIE) from the European Region)**

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The health and welfare of animals and humans, as well as environmental cleanliness and food safety of animal origin, significantly depend on the availability, effectiveness and safety of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products. The growing threat of transboundary animal diseases, the impact of environmental changes and globalization, as well as new societal demands related to food security, food safety, public health and animal welfare, emphasize the critical need for collaboration between the three organizations through the implementation of the “One Health” concept. The EU is supporting and actively collaborating with international organisations such as the WHO, the OIE, the FAO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in order to ensure the development and implementation of global strategies and measures designed to restrict the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance. One of the ways for decreasing the usage of antimicrobials in veterinary practice is monitoring their manufacturing, prescription, distribution and use on different levels: veterinarians, marketing authorization holders, wholesale and retail distributors, pharmacies, which can be the tool in combating antimicrobial resistance.

Three tools are important for monitoring and supervision of antimicrobials use: prescription, Good Distribution Practice and the e-tracking system. The prescription gives the possibility to receive information about amount of antimicrobial used, animal group, species, class of antimicrobial agent, indication (treatment, prophylaxis, metaphylaxis), route of administration, type of pharmaceutical form, dosage regimen, treatment duration and effectiveness.

Persons administering antimicrobials for animals must purchase them from the authorized sources in wholesale or retail distributors, based on a veterinary prescription. Wholesale distribution is subject to the holding of an authorization with license issued by Competent Authorities. In order to obtain the authorization for distribution, wholesalers will have technically competent staff at their disposal.

Detailed database on antibiotic consumption and possible risk factors which can lead to the development of antimicrobial resistance is highly important particularly for food-producing animals. The purpose of the e-tracking system is online exchanging all standard data on antimicrobials among the stakeholders and Competent Authorities. Functioning of this system should be supported by national legislation harmonized with international acts. The Competent Authorities should develop and implement acts, adopt the necessary measures and practical arrangements needed to support e-tracking system.

Taking to account the requirements of the international organizations and the experience of OIE Member States in the problem of combating antimicrobial resistance the priority tasks in Ukraine are the introduction of the amendments to the national legislation concerning circulation and usage of antimicrobials.

Keywords: ANTIMICROBIAL VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE, MONITORING OF SALES AND USAGE, PRESCRIPTION, DISTRIBUTION, E-TRACKING SYSTEM.