

Recommendation No. 2

**Importance of the prescription of antimicrobial agents and control of their distribution
(with a possible e-tracking system) by the Veterinary Services
for a proper implementation of the antimicrobial resistance strategy**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious threat to human health, animal health and welfare, plant health, and also to the environment and food security throughout the world and cannot be successfully tackled without multi-sectoral cooperation;
2. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) are working closely together with the Codex Alimentarius Commission to ensure the development and implementation of global strategies and measures designed to restrict the development and spread of AMR, and contribute to the fulfilment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
3. The Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO) alliance has recently been strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with a strong focus on tackling AMR;
4. Modern advances in information technology have led to the development of e-tracking systems that can be used to monitor the entire chain of antimicrobial agents' circulation;
5. The OIE provides its Members with standards, assistance and leadership with regard to their policies on strengthening and harmonising their surveillance systems on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals and it supports their efforts to implement science-based international standards;
6. OIE Members need to share their experience and work together to address the problem of combating AMR and promote the prudent use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine; and
7. The OIE is organising the “Second Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance – *Putting Standards into Practice*”, to be held in Marrakesh (Morocco) from 29 to 31 October 2018.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members strengthen their national legislation with the aim of implementing the OIE Strategy on AMR and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, adopted in the form of Resolution No. 36 by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates at the 84th General Session of the OIE in 2016;
2. Members develop, approve and implement national action plans for AMR in human and veterinary medicine under the “One Health” approach, taking into account multi-sectoral and multinational experience and aligned with the Global Action Plan developed by WHO and formally endorsed by OIE and FAO;

3. Members' Veterinary Authorities, in collaboration with other relevant Competent Authorities, foster awareness and understanding of the problem of AMR, strengthen knowledge and ensure, as much as possible, surveillance of all steps of antimicrobial use, including their manufacture, distribution, storage and application and the disposal of unused antimicrobials;
4. Members' Veterinary Services follow the recommendations in the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance, in particular regarding restrictions on the use of fluoroquinolones, third and fourth generation cephalosporins and colistin, and refrain the use of antimicrobial agents of critical importance as growth promoters in absence of risk assessment;
5. Members' Veterinary Authorities promote a strong collaboration between veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals, and farmers in order to implement the principles of good animal health/husbandry practices, including biosecurity, to reduce the need for antimicrobials and take steps to ensure that, when their use is unavoidable, they are used in a responsible and prudent manner in accordance with relevant international standards, including Chapter 6.10 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and Chapter 6.2 of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*;
6. Members' Veterinary Authorities implement the principles of good distribution practice to improve the monitoring of amounts of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products (AVMPs) sold at national level, using, wherever possible, an e-tracking system or other forms of data collection in accordance with the requirements of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) and the OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals;
7. Members' Veterinary Authorities pursue the implementation of a veterinary prescription-only based distribution system for antimicrobials, including those intended for use in both food-producing animals and companion animals, so as to improve or maximise as far as possible the traceability of antimicrobial distribution;
8. OIE Delegates nominate their national Focal Point for Veterinary Products if they have not already done so, encourage their Focal Point's active participation in OIE capacity-building activities, and take advantage of their expertise to support the implementation of national AMR-related activities in collaboration with all interested parties;
9. Members take advantage of the upcoming OIE Global Conference to update their knowledge and, in preparation for the OIE Seventh Strategic Plan, to contribute to the future work of the OIE on AMR;
10. The OIE collect and publish, on the OIE regional website, examples of AMR-related best practices, particularly on the use of e-tracking systems, and highlighting the consequences of overuse and misuse of antimicrobial agents;
11. The OIE, in the development of the model curricula for veterinary paraprofessionals, ensure that the role of veterinary paraprofessionals in the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents, be well addressed; and
12. In future activities undertaken under the PVS Pathway, the OIE provide its Members with tools and capacity-building activities with a greater focus on AMR.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2018
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)