

New Livestock Antibiotic Rules for California

California Senate Bill 27 was signed by Governor Brown on October 10, 2015 with an implementation date of January 1, 2018. It set aggressive, groundbreaking standards for antimicrobial drug use in California livestock and was supported by the CVMA.

As of January 1, all medically important antimicrobial drugs (MIADs) used in livestock may only be obtained through a veterinary prescription or a veterinary feed directive pursuant to a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). In order for a VCPR to be valid, the client must authorize the veterinarian to assume responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the veterinarian must assume this responsibility. The veterinarian must then have sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis. This can only be done through an in-person physical exam of the animal(s) or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept. The veterinarian is obligated to communicate to the client the course of treatment appropriate to the circumstance. Under no circumstances can a veterinarian prescribe a drug for longer than one year from the date that the veterinarian examined the animal for the condition that the drug is intended to treat.

Here are some important facts about the SB 27 legal changes that veterinary professionals need to know.

This change applies to all livestock as defined by both state and federal law. "Livestock" means all animals and poultry, including aquatic and amphibian species, that are raised, kept, or used for profit. While state law omits honey bees from this definition, federal law includes them so these rules also apply to honey bees. Livestock does not include those species that are usually kept as pets, such as dogs, cats, and pet birds.

- After establishing a valid VCPR pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2032.1, a veterinarian may administer, dispense, or prescribe MIADs for use in livestock for the following therapeutic purposes:
 - When necessary to treat a disease or infection
 - When necessary to control the spread of a disease or infection
 - When necessary in relation to surgery or a medical procedure
 - As prophylaxis to address an elevated risk of contraction of a particular disease or infection (use cannot be administered in a regular pattern)

- MIADs may not be administered for purposes of promoting weight gain or improving feed efficiency.
- Livestock owners, including apiculturists, backyard poultry owners, small livestock herd or flock owners, or hobby farmers may only purchase and administer MIADs with a prescription from a California licensed veterinarian with a valid VCPR, unless intended to be fed to livestock which requires a veterinary feed directive.
- Feed stores will no longer sell MIADs over the counter and feed mills will no longer add MIADs to feed without a veterinary feed directive (VFD) (the latter commenced in 2017 pursuant to federal regulations).

Many livestock owners are not accustomed to having a veterinarian and have been purchasing MIADs at the feed store. This is no longer an option and they may ask where they can get their prescription filled. Medications may only be dispensed by:

- The prescribing veterinarian
- A licensed pharmacy
- A veterinary food animal drug retailer which is only for livestock producers with sellers permits (wholesale licenses)

For more information, visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship website at cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/AUS/ or visit cvma.net and search for "Judicious use of antimicrobials."



Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs

Aminoglycosides

Dihydrostreptomycin***
Gentamicin** (Garacin, Gen-Gard)
Hygromycin B** (Hygromix)
Neomycin** (Neo-Sol 50, Neovet)
Spectinomycin* (L-S50, Speclinx-50)

Amphenicols

Florfenicol*** (Nuflor)

Cephalosporins

Ceftiofur*** (Naxcel, Excede, Excenel)
Cephapirin (Today, Tomorrow)

Diaminopyrimidines

Ormetoprim (Rofenaid)

Fluoroquinolones

Danofloxacin***
Enrofloxacin*** (Baytril)

Lincosamides

Lincomycin** (Lincosol, Lincomix)
Pirlimycin***

Polymyxins

Polymyxin B (Terramycin)

Macrolides

Erythromycin** (Gallimycin)
Gamithromycin*** (Zactran)
Tildipirosin***

Tilmicosin (Pulmotil AC)
Tulathromycin*** (Draxxin)
Tylosin** (Tylan, Tylovet, Tyloved)
Tylvalosin (Aivlosin)

Penicillins

Amoxicillin***
Ampicillin*** (Polyflex)
Cloxacillin***
Penicillin** (Pennchlor, R-Pen, Bactracillin)

Polymyxins

Polymyxin B (Terramycin)

Streptogramins

Virginiamycin** (V-max, Stafac)

Sulfonamides (Sulfas)

Sulfadimethoxine** (Salfadived, Albon, Sulfamed)
Sulfamerazine** (Poultrysulfa)
Sulfamethazine** (Poultrysulfa, Aureo)
Sulfaquinoxaline** (Sul-Q-Nox, Poultrysulfa)

Tetracyclines

Chlortetracycline** (ChlorMax, Pennchlor)
Oxytetracycline** (LA-200, Duramycin, Bio-Mycin)
Tetracycline** (Duramycin, Tetramed)

* Feed/water drugs must follow FDA VFD and water prescription requirement as of 1/1/2017.

** May be used in feed.

*** Federally labeled as prescription-only (regulatory restrictions unchanged by SB 27).

New CE Requirement on the Judicious Use of MIADs

Pursuant to SB 361, beginning on January 1, 2018, veterinarians must complete a minimum of one credit hour of continuing education on the judicious use of medically important antimicrobial drugs every four years as a condition of licensure.

- For licensees renewing in 2018, the one-hour course must be taken within the 2018–2020 two-year renewal cycle. The requirement will then follow a four-year cycle of every other renewal cycle thereafter (e.g., renewal in 2024, 2028, etc.).
- For licensees renewing in 2019, the one-hour course must be taken within the 2019–2021 two-year renewal cycle. The requirement will then follow a four-year cycle of every other renewal cycle thereafter (e.g., renewal in 2025, 2029, etc.).

The CVMA will offer courses that meet the requirement at the Pacific Veterinary Conference in San Francisco on June 28–July 1, 2018 and through CVMA online seminars. More information about courses can be found on the CDFA Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship website in the Animal Health section: cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/aus/AnimalHealth.

