

Anthelmintics

Some of you may have read the short article from AMTRA in the January edition of *Over-theCounter* magazine. There is no apology for repeating and re-emphasising what was said in that comment.

When the current EU Directive was being negotiated most of the EU wanted to see our POM-VPS medicines available only to a prescription from a vet, and despite the long campaign many in Brussels still want to see that, and will use any ammunition that they can to achieve their long standing objective.

If they see that POM-VPS medicines, particularly anthelmintics, are being sold as commodities, without controls or professional advice, whether over the counter, over the phone, or over the internet, then they will renew their campaign to give them exclusively to the vets. And several groups of UK vets are already lobbying for this to happen.

This coupled with the growing concern over anthelmintic resistance means that no anthelmintic should be sold without a discussion between the SQP and the animal owner on the most appropriate anthelmintic to administer to that animal at that time.

This is even more important with sheep anthelmintics – they should never be prescribed and supplied other than in accordance with the SCOPS guidelines. It is AMTRA's intention to commission a CPD module on this subject and make it widely available to SQPs; indeed it may be deemed as critical CPD as referred to above.

AMTRA CPD - continued from previous page

These proposals are currently under active consideration and development by the AMTRA Secretariat, Council & Board, but it is unlikely that a definitive scheme will be finalised and launched before the middle of 2008 at the earliest. It must be remembered that one of the main reasons for the requirement on AMTRA to establish CPD is to ensure that SQPs remain up to date. It is therefore increasingly likely that in the first instance AMTRA will be able to offer SQPs a relatively simple CPD scheme that will merely require attendance at one AMTRA accredited CPD event in every 2 to 3 year period. This requirement may be supplemented if there is new critical information about which AMTRA believes SQPs must be aware. Thought is being given to the development of a largely on-line simple assessment of SQPs CPD.

The criteria for AMTRA accreditation of third party CPD events has not yet been completed, but as part of this process AMTRA is inviting all potential event holders to a meeting where the criteria for accreditation can be established and agreed. From the expressions of interest received so far by AMTRA, there are many companies and organisations interested in holding AMTRA accredited CPD events for SQPs in all parts of the UK.

AMTRA Conversion Exams

Those of you with an "X" prefix to your SQP number, i.e. SQPs who have successfully completed the APL, must successfully complete an AMTRA Conversion examination to become eligible to renew your SQP status in October 2008 for 2009. If you do not successfully complete a Conversion examination your SQP status will lapse on 31 December 2008. At 25 January 2008 there were 462 XR-SQPs (many of whom have already booked a conversion examination place), and 343 XE-SQPs (very few of whom have yet booked a conversion examination place).

Remember whether you are a merchant SQP (XR prefix) or a saddler SQP (XE) prefix you can book a place on a conversion examination at any of the examination centres listed on the AMTRA website – to book a place you must send to AMTRA the personalised conversion examination booking form that you received from Harper Adams with the results of your APL assessment, together with the examination fee; if you have lost yours, reprints can be obtained from Harper Adams – tel. 01952 815485 but they charge a fee.

As you were reminded at the time of renewal for 2008, those of you who are SQPs who qualified before autumn 2005 and who have not done an APL (ie those with simple R or E prefixes), will not be eligible to renew for 2009, and your SQP status will lapse at 31 December 2008. However, if you change your mind and decide to convert there is still (just) time for you to complete an APL (available on the AMTRA website), return it and then take a conversion examination.

To meet the demand of a few specialist pig or poultry SQPs, special pig & poultry conversion examinations are to be held at Harper Adams on 25 April 2008. Harper Adams are also offering a morning's refresher course for those taking one of these examinations. Any SQP succeeding in one of these examinations will only be eligible to prescribe and supply pig or poultry POM-VPS medicines (depending on which exam he or she has taken), and will not be eligible to supply other POM-VPS or NFA-VPS medicines, e.g. for cattle, sheep, horses and companion animals.

AMI Report

Those of you who were at the AHDA Conference or CPD Event on 23 January will already have this information. However, since there were less than 3% of the 3588 SQPs and student SQPs to whom this News is being sent, the key points are worth repeating for the benefit of the other 97%. The AMI inspected 627 premises, and found 478 to be fully "in order", with another 84 only marginally in breach of the Regulations and thus regarded as "borderline". The main problem found with those premises that were not compliant were with the SQP responsibilities in prescribing POM-VPS medicines. Under the Regulations SQPs must "prescribe" (this can be done verbally) and not simply react to a customer request for particular medicines without knowledge of the animals to which the medicines are to be administered. It is the SQP's responsibility to provide advice. In addition, 20 premises were found to have no SQP coverage, a serious breach of the Regulations.

Another area where the AMI expressed some concern was in respect of the storage of vaccines. There were 12 cases where the fridge temperatures were outside the acceptable range for the storage of vaccines, and another 12 where no temperature records were kept at all. The AMI made it clear that where they found vaccines that were not demonstrably being stored within the accepted temperature range, they would seize the vaccines as potentially being unsuitable for administration to animals.

Where a POM-VPS medicine is supplied under a written prescription, the Regulations make it the duty of the supplying SQP to be satisfied that the product is delivered to the person named on the prescription. AMTRA regards it as the professional duty of any of its SQPs to be sure that the

product is delivered to the person to whom it has been prescribed, whether or not it is written, and that when it is delivered to that person it is fit for the purpose for which it has been prescribed. That duty cannot be satisfied in respect of vaccines unless steps are taken to ensure that they are not damaged by prolonged exposure to the wrong temperature between the supplier's fridge and

the customer's fridge. The AMI reminded every one that it is the legal duty of an SQP who considers the premises from which he or she is operating no longer complies with the approval requirements to report that fact to the AMI – for example if they know that they are not being replaced by another SQP when they leave employment at a registered premises.

AMTRA Examinations

Those taking, or who have taken, SQP Conversion examinations, or examinations for New SQPs, are reminded that before the results are released they must be confirmed by the Special Examination Board, which meets monthly. It is likely to be between 5 and 9 weeks after the examination before the results are sent to you. They are sent to you immediately they become available, and cannot be released over the telephone.

New SQPs are reminded that you must pass both the written academic examination AND the viva/oral examination conducted by an AMTRA Assessor. It is possible for candidates to pass the written module examinations, but to fail the viva/oral. Those who fail the viva/oral will not be accepted onto the AMTRA SQP Register.

Reclassification

Following representations over more than a decade from AMTRA on behalf of AMTRA SQPs, and from other organisations, VMD have produced the summary overleaf of the medicines which have now been recommended for reclassification. If these proposals are accepted and implemented there will be a significant number of additional products available for SQPs to supply. Without the increase in professional competence of SQPs which has been implemented through the upgrade/conversion process and the new modular examination system, it is unlikely that SQPs would have been considered as an appropriate route for the supply of many of these products, and it is unlikely that these proposals would ever have been made.

Subsequent to the release of the list overleaf, a further consultation, proposing the reclassification of 9 more products from POM-V to POM-VPS has been published on 25 January 2008. The 9 additional products are:

Sheep Vaccine:	Covexin 10	
Poultry Vaccines:	Nobilis CAV P4	AviPro Thymovac
	Paracox	Paracox 5
Fish Vaccines:	Alpha Ject 2-2	Aquavac FNM Plus
	Aquavac Furovac	Furogen 2

PRODUCTS RECOMMENDED FOR RECLASSIFICATION		
Product	Current Category	Recommended Category
Cat Flea Treatment		
Program Suspension for Large Cats	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Program Suspension for Small Cats and Kittens	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Advantage 40 for Cats	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Advantage 80 for Cats	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Fleegard 4 for Cats	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Fleegard 8 for Cats	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Frontline Combo Spot On Cat	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Frontline Spot On Cat	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Frontline Spot on Cat (France)	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Top Drop for Large Cats	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Top Drop for Small Cats	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Frontline Spray	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Frontline Spray	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Dog & Cat Anthelmintic		
Granofen Wormer for Cats & Dogs	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Panacur 2.5% Liquid	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Panacur 10% Liquid	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Panacur Granules	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Panacur Paste	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Dog Anthelmintic		
Panacur Favourites for Dogs	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Program Plus Tablets 2.3mg/46mg	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Program Plus Tablets 5.75mg/115mg	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Program Plus Tablets 11.5mg/230mg	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Program Plus Tablets 23mg/460mg	POM-V	NFA-VPS
Wormazole	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Cat Anthelmintic		
Panacur Favourites for Cats	NFA-VPS	AVM-GSL
Cattle Vaccines		
Lactovac	POM-V	POM-VPS
Leptavoid H	POM-V	POM-VPS
Rotavec Corona	POM-V	POM-VPS
Spirovac	POM-V	POM-VPS
Trivacton 6	POM-V	POM-VPS
Pig Vaccines		
Suvaxyn Ery	POM-V	POM-VPS