Professional Standards and Responsible Use - April 2014

Professional Standards for SQPs

All SQPs are required to abide by the current version of the SQP Code of Practice, to abide by the Veterinary Medicines Regulations taking account of VMD's Veterinary Medicines Guidance Notes, and to act in a professional manner.

AMTRA is required under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations to "take appropriate action in accordance with any disciplinary code that applies to that body if a suitably qualified person registered with it does not comply with the Code of Practice".

Under AMTRA's Constitutional Framework document CF1 "Registration and professional conduct of Suitably Qualified Persons" (available on the AMTRA website or on request from the AMTRA office) when the AMTRA Secretary General is advised of in writing of an actual, supposed or claimed transgression by an SQP which might constitute a breach of professional standards or contravene the Code of Practice, it will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures in document CF1.

Sanctions for substantiated cases range from a letter of guidance through to permanent removal from the SQP Register.

The SQP Code of Practice

The Code of Practice for SQPs thus forms the foundation of expected behaviour of SQPs. The language of the Code is broad, and it may be helpful to draw attention to some key points.

Paragraph 27 repeats the key point that the responsibility for complying with the statutory requirements lies with the individual SQP, on each and every prescription and supply, regardless of how the supply is made. While the business and the manager may take some responsibility, it is still the SQP who must comply with the law and the Code.

Paragraph 30 reminds us that all POM-VPS medicines must be properly prescribed before supply.

> *The act of prescribing is taken to be the decision made by the SQP as to which product should be supplied taking account of:*
>
> - *the circumstances of the holding and the animals being treated*
> - *the available authorised veterinary medicinal products*
> - *the need for responsible use of medicines and the requirement to prescribe the minimum amount of product necessary for the treatment (subject to the minimum pack size manufactured and any authority to break bulk in the Regulations)*
> - *the requirement for the person receiving the product to use it for an authorised use according to the marketing authorisation*
> - *the abilities and competence of the person who will administer the product*
> - *any available Animal Health Plan*

All these elements are important, and any SQP should be able to justify on each transaction that they have satisfied these obligations.

Sufficient information should be gained from the customer or already known to the SQP to make an appropriate decision. SQPs who are not speaking with the customer at the time of the prescription should consider whether they have sufficient information in writing or need to obtain further information.

The need for Responsible Use is part of an appropriate prescription. SQPs should, where appropriate, take account of guidance from bodies such as SCOPS, COWS and RUMA, and discuss that guidance with their customers.

Responsible use crucially includes appropriate product choice, notably with a view to minimisation of resistance. But responsible use also includes using a product on the right animals, at the right time, in the right way, at the right dose, with the right equipment.

Paragraph 32 highlights key points as they relate to the supply element.

> *32. When prescribing and supplying a product within the POM-VPS category or supplying a product within the NFA-VPS category, the SQP must always:*
>
> *• be satisfied that the person who will use the product is competent to use it safely;*
> *• advise on any warnings or contra-indications on the label or package leaflet;*
> *• provide advice on the safe administration of the product;*
> *• be satisfied that the person using the product intends to use it for an authorised use;*
> *• supply the product specified in that prescription*
> *• take all reasonable steps to ensure that the product is supplied to the person named in the prescription.*
> *• in the case of a sheep dip product, be satisfied that the product is supplied only to a person (or a person acting on his behalf) who holds a Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Sheep Dips issued in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the National Proficiency Tests Council or the NPTC part of the City and Guilds Group or in Scotland by one of these organisations or the Scottish Skills Testing Service. The supply of sheep dip must be made in accordance with the legislative requirements, including, for OP dips, the supply of protective gloves and the laminated notice contained in the Regulations.*

Note the use of the word “always” in that paragraph 32, which applies to all of the bullet points.

“Advice” is a key word in the SQP role. There are the key regulatory demands such as advice on product choice, on safe administration, on warnings and contraindications.

SQPs should consider whether the customer understands how to administer the product for maximum effectiveness and minimisation of resistance as well as pure safety. Other relevant aspects of animal health should also be considered including biosecurity, the benefits of quarantine treatments and the risks associated with any movement of animals. Owners should be encouraged to weigh animals and thus ensure the right dose is given. Administration equipment should be calibrated.

The paragraphs highlighted in this section are not the only important ones – SQPs should read the Code and ensure that they have a good understanding of all of their professional responsibilities.

Responsible Use and Resistance

As discussed above, the need for Responsible Use is part of an appropriate prescription. SQPs should, where appropriate, take account of guidance from bodies such as SCOPS, COWS and RUMA, and discuss that guidance with their customers.

In grazing animals, where possible the resistance status of the parasites in question should be determined, and appropriate use made of worm egg counts.

Sufficient information should be gained from every customer to ensure that the right product is prescribed.

In order to help ensure that a minimum of information is collected for an anthelmintic prescription, AHDA, AMTRA and BVA have worked with SCOPS to produce suggested prescription forms for sheep anthelmintics. Similar work for cattle and horses will be ongoing during 2014.

The latest version of the forms will always be available on the AMTRA website.

In general, the two-page form is to be preferred, but where time is particularly tight and the farmer has already identified the product desired, the one-page form may be adequate but follow-up with the longer form on another occasion would be appropriate.

It is not a requirement of the Code that these forms be used, but it is a requirement that all POM-VPS medicines be prescribed appropriately, as discussed above. Any SQP challenged will need to be able to show that what they are doing meets the requirements of the Code of Practice and the Veterinary Medicines Regulations – using these forms may be helpful in doing that.

Prescription form for sheep anthelmintic

Farmer/Account Name: **Date:**

1. **The Sheep and Target parasite(s) :** (Circle those that apply)

Animals	Roundworms	Liver Fluke	Sheep scab
Lambs	Roundworms	Liver Fluke	Sheep scab
Ewes around lambing	Roundworms	Liver Fluke	Sheep scab
Ewes other	Roundworms	Liver Fluke	Sheep scab
Rams	Roundworms	Liver Fluke	Sheep scab
Replacements	Roundworms	Liver Fluke	Sheep scab
Other (specify)	Roundworms	Liver Fluke	Sheep scab

2. **Reason for Treatment** (circle those that apply)

Quarantine	Dirty / wormy looking sheep
Based on FEC results (enter epg)	Vet advice
Routine	Preventative
Poor performance	Sheep Scab

3. **Anthelmintic resistance (AR) status (tick)**

	1-BZ	2-LV	3-ML	TCBZ (fluke)
Not Known (no testing)				
YES				
NO (tested and negative)				
Suspected?				

4. Product Prescribed

Trade Name =

Active Ingredient(s)	1-BZ	2-LV	3-ML	3-ML (mox)	4-AD*	5-SI*	TCBZ	Closan-tel	Oyclos-anide	Nitroxy-nil
Tick all that apply If a combination prescribed										

*POM=V only but one required for quarantine treatments

Number of sheep to be treated	Weight (kgs)	Dose rate	Total Quantity of product

5. Responsible Use Advice Checklist

	✓ or X
The customer has got the appropriate equipment	
Have they have been reminded that they must calibrate guns, applicators etc.	
Animals to be weighed and dose rate calculated to take account of the heaviest in the group.	
Specific instructions (e.g. 2% LA mox injection site) have been given	
Post-treatment testing has been advised	
The customer has been made aware of any specific warnings / contraindications for the product.	

Signed:

Prescription form for sheep anthelmintic

Farmer/Account Name: **Date:**

1. **Has the product requested been recommended by a Vet, pharmacist or SQP?**

YES	NO

If YES what is the Brand name……

2. **Has this product been used regularly on your farm?**

YES	NO

If YES then circle one of the options below:

1 or two years	3 - 5 years	Over 5 years

3. **Anthelmintic Resistance (AR) status (circle one)**

Do you suspect you may have any resistance to anthelmintics on your farm?

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW

Have you ever tested for anthelmintic resistance?

YES	NO

4. **Responsible Use Advice Checklist**

	✓ or X
The customer has got the appropriate equipment	
Have they have been reminded that they must calibrate guns, applicators etc.	
Animals to be weighed and dose rate calculated to take account of the heaviest in the group.	
Specific instructions (e.g. 2% LA mox injection site) have been given	
Post-treatment testing has been advised	
The customer has been made aware of any specific warnings / contraindications for the product.	

SCOPS and COWS: developing and promoting best practice in the control of sheep and cattle parasites

SCOPS develops sustainable strategies for parasite control in sheep, facilitates and oversees the delivery of these recommendations to the industry.

www.scops.org.uk

COWS aims to provide the best available, evidence-based information to the cattle industry in relation to the sustainable control of parasites in cattle.

www.cattleparasites.org.uk