

# Varroa Treatments - Responsible Use

Delaying the development and spread of resistance

- You must **use authorised medicines** as approved by the VMD. Not only is there a legal requirement to do so, but also the safety, quality and efficacy of unauthorised products are unknown.
- **Follow all of the instructions** in the package leaflet paying careful attention to warnings and dosage rates.
- Monitor the varroa infestation and apply treatments no more often than is necessary.
- Test the susceptibility of varroa mites to the medicines prior to treatments, where possible.
- Combine the use of medicines with biotechnical control methods, such as drone brood removal and queen caging (Integrated Pest Management).
- Rotate the use of two or more unrelated medicines.
- Continue to monitor mite drop after treatment and report any cases of lack of efficacy to the VMD (report adverse event).

Search [www.nationalbeeunit.com](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com)

“managing varroa” for more information

“varroa calculator” for this helpful tool



Veterinary  
Medicines  
Directorate

## Veterinary Medicines Information Sheet



The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is the government agency responsible for authorising and regulating veterinary medicines. We are also responsible for the policy and its delivery on veterinary medicines in the UK.

[www.gov.uk/vmd](http://www.gov.uk/vmd) and use the search terms listed

There are quick links on the top of our [home page](#) to our most used guidance and services. Sign up to our [email alerts](#) for the latest news and updates.

### Product Information Database

Search “[check animal medicines](#)”

Our [searchable database](#) of definitive, up-to-date product details, including the Summary of Product Characteristics (user guidance for the product and specific warnings to consider), the UK Public Assessment Report (UKPAR) and a list of Post Authorisation Assessments (PAA) made to the authorisation which shows where changes have been made.

### Accredited Internet Retailer Scheme (AIRS)

Search “[sell animal medicines online](#)” or “[accredited internet](#)”

As a vet, pharmacist or suitably qualified person [selling veterinary medicines](#) on the internet you must comply with the [Veterinary Medicines Regulations](#).

This interactive logo will be displayed on Accredited sites and will link to the [VMD's published list](#):

It is an offence to alter a written veterinary prescription without the permission of the person who wrote it.



If you are aware of a website you believe is acting illegally please let us know by emailing: [enforcement@vmd.gov.uk](mailto:enforcement@vmd.gov.uk).

## Reporting an Adverse Event

### Search “report animal medicine”

Anyone can report a reaction to a veterinary medicine that affects a person, animal or the environment, or if the medicine has not had the desired effect. This also includes unlicensed products, needle-stick injuries and microchips.

**The information that you provide could help to improve the safe and effective use of veterinary medicines.**

## The Prescribing Cascade

### Search “cascade guidance”

This guidance explains how to use the prescribing cascade, including: dispensing, setting withdrawal periods, using human drugs, extemporaneous preparations, exemptions for small animals, labelling and record keeping. It also provides practical considerations, and special considerations for vaccines.

## Special Import Scheme

### Search “import certificate”

Vets can apply for a certificate to import veterinary medicines if authorised alternatives are not available in the UK. Further guidance can be found using the search term above or contact the VMD if you have a specific query [importcert@vmd.gov.uk](mailto:importcert@vmd.gov.uk).

Specific advice for vets and beekeepers on importing bee medicines can be found by searching for “bee medicines”.

## Registration, Inspection and Selling Veterinary Medicines

### Search “medicine retail guidance”

Veterinary surgeons are only allowed to supply medicines from their surgery premises if they are registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Some of these premises are inspected by the VMD and the inspection criteria is available online by searching “inspection criteria” or by email request to [inspections@vmd.gov.uk](mailto:inspections@vmd.gov.uk).

This guidance has information for vets, pharmacists and suitably qualified persons on prescribing or supplying medicines, including the requirements for the registration and inspection of premises.

## Recording Medicines, including the Cascade

### Search “medicine record-keeping guidance”

Keepers of food producing animals, including horses, are required to keep records of the medicines they have purchased and that are administered to their animals. Template record sheets for horses can also be downloaded.

## Residues of Veterinary Medicines in Food

### Search “residues surveillance”

The VMD operates a Residues Surveillance Programme. Further information on the surveillance, substances tested, results and charges are available online, as well as more details about the veterinary residues legislation.

## Antimicrobial Resistance

### Search “AMR” or “antimicrobial resistance”

There is a collection of information, including references to strategic policy documents, clinical and technical guidance, printable posters and news items.

The VMD has produced a summary position on the ‘responsible use under the prescribing cascade’ and a ‘code of practice of the responsible use of animal medicines on farm’.

Become an **ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN**



Join over 72,500 people and pledge to use antibiotics responsibly by becoming an antibiotic guardian. Visit [www.antibioticguardian.com](http://www.antibioticguardian.com) and choose your pledge today.

## Controlled Drugs

### Search “controlled drugs”

Anyone involved in the prescribing, supply and storage of controlled drugs must comply with the Veterinary Medicines Regulations and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations.

**General enquiries** [postmaster@vmd.gov.uk](mailto:postmaster@vmd.gov.uk)