

PUBLISHED MINUTES  
VETERINARY MEDICINES REGULATIONS  
**VETERINARY PRODUCTS COMMITTEE**

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**PUBLISHED MINUTES**



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**A summary of the minutes of the Veterinary Products Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2020 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.**

Chairman – Professor Malcolm Bennett BVSc, PhD, MRCVS, FRCPath, FHEA  
Secretary – Sandra Russell

Members

Mrs H Ballantyne  
Dr R Bennett  
Dr K Burnett  
Prof D Cavanagh  
Dr Yu-Mei Ruby Chang  
Ms S Harmer  
Mr M Jelley  
Dr D Killick  
Dr E Kubiak  
Mr S Lister  
Dr D Mackay  
Prof J Matthews  
Mr D O'Rourke  
Prof C Robertson  
Mr R Soutar  
Mr J Statham  
Ms A Tarr  
Mr E Vega  
Prof J Weeks  
Mr M White

VMD

Ms A Seager  
Mr P Green  
Dr G Diesel  
Dr G Clarke  
Dr R Cooney  
Mr G Hall  
Ms S Brown  
Dr M Bos  
Mr Jean-Paul Schmidt  
Dr S Spencer  
Mr D Finn  
Mr C Abbott

Officials<sup>1</sup>

Others

Ms K Foxall PHE

<sup>1</sup> Officials may be present for all or part of the meeting or for specific agenda items.

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### 1. Announcements and apologies for absence

- 1.1. The Chairman reminded members and officials that all papers, unless otherwise indicated, and discussions of the committee are confidential. No information relating to the proceedings of the committee or papers presented to the committee may be divulged to any third party.
- 1.2. The Chairman welcomed new members Dr David Killick (small and mixed animal veterinary surgeon), Dr David Mackay (veterinary immunologist) and Mr Ronnie Soutar (veterinary surgeon specialising in fish) to their first meeting.
- 1.3. Apologies for absence had been received from Professor Borriello, Professor Matthews, Mr Lister, Mr Statham and Mr Millward.
- 1.4. Dr Bennett, Mr Jelley, Professor Weeks, Mr Vega and Ms Foxall (PHE) joined by teleconference.

### 2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1. The Chairman reminded Members of the procedure for declaring interests at VPC meetings. Interests declared were minuted under the individual items.

### 3. VMD presentation: Novel Therapies

- 3.1 A presentation on the VMD approach to novel therapies was given by efficacy assessor Jean-Paul Schmidt.

### 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019

- 4.1. The Committee had cleared the minutes of the September meeting by correspondence and the Summary minutes were available on Gov.uk ([www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-products-committee/about/membership](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-products-committee/about/membership)).

### 5. Matters arising from the minutes

- 5.1. Minute 4.1.2: Raising awareness of needlestick injuries
  - 5.1.1 Members have agreed to draft an article for nurse practitioners. The VMD gave an update on a VMD article for NFU magazine which has been published. The article for SQPs will be published in the next edition of 'Over the Counter'.
- 5.2. Minute 4.1.3: Product adverse event cards
  - 5.2.1 The VMD have had discussions with NOAH about the possibility of including plastic cards with information on needlestick injuries for relevant products. Most Marketing Authorisation Holders (MAHs) already produce cards and will take the VMD's suggestions into account.
  - 5.2.2 Members agreed that veterinary nurses should be made more aware and suggested including an article in 'Veterinary Nurse' and 'Emergency Nurse' magazines.
  - 5.2.3 One member stated that incidents had reduced in the fish industry due to auto vaccination. In the pig and sheep sectors, more vaccinations were being carried out but there was no evidence to suggest there was an increase in incidents.
  - 5.2.4 It was agreed that VMD would raise awareness with DHSE and make contact with HSE to find a way of being kept informed of any incidents relating to veterinary medicines.

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- 5.3. Minute 4.2.1: FSA testing of imported products
  - 5.3.1 The FSA were unable to send a representative to this meeting to advise on this issue. VMD will be meeting with the FSA and will update the Committee at a future meeting.
- 5.4. Minute 4.6.1: Disposal of plastics on farms
  - 5.4.1 VMD confirmed that the Environment Agency (EA) are responsible for the disposal of plastic waste on farm. EA advise that waste should be taken off farm for re-cycling or landfill.
  - 5.4.2 The VPC Chair agreed to raise this issue at meetings he attends within Defra and report back to the Committee.
- 5.5. Minute 9.1: R&D presentations
  - 5.5.1 VMD agreed to provide presentations on R&D projects. This would be subject to the timings, logistics and relevant milestones in projects and being able to identify a suitable phase that would be appropriate for an update.
- 5.6. Minute 12.2: Special Imports reporting
  - 5.6.1 This was covered under item 10.2.2.
- 5.7. Minute 7A.6.1: Article for Veterinary Times
  - 5.7.1 VMD are in the process of drafting an article explaining what makes a veterinary medicine and will send it to members when published.

## 6. The UK Pharmacovigilance report

### 6.1. Introduction

- 6.1.1 The Committee considered and commented upon the Pharmacovigilance Report for August to November 2019, which was presented by the head of the VMD's Pharmacovigilance Unit.

### 6.2. Suspected adverse event reports in humans

- 6.2.1 VMD highlighted the reports involving a spot-on product and updated the members on the supply of gloves. The MAH has agreed to proactively supply gloves to veterinary practices with the delivery of the product; instead of the prior situation where veterinary practices had to request gloves when they were running low. VMD also updated members on the MAH's current scheme of supplying the product in the post and in this case gloves will be provided in the same delivery.
- 6.2.2 A member noted a report where some veterinary medicine squirted into a vet's mouth whilst injecting a bull. Her tongue became numb and was therefore advised to attend A&E. She was monitored for 5 hours and was later discharged.
- 6.2.3 A member noted a report involving a veterinary medicine and an injury with a high pressure vaccinator which resulted in approximately 2.5ml of oil-adjuvanted product penetrating the skin on his hand. The farmer attended hospital and the necrotic tissue was surgically removed.
- 6.2.4 A question was raised about what sort of needlestick injuries should be reported to the VMD. VMD officials stated that all incidents, where a product is involved and there is an adverse impact on the individual concerned, should be reported. It was noted that there was a high level of under-reporting in the veterinary sector; whilst in the human sector, due to the risks associated with HIV and Hepatitis, there was much greater awareness and compliance with reporting incidents. It was also suggested

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that VMD should collaborate with HSE and investigate if any of our reports should be dealt with as RIDDOR incidents, and vice versa.

### 6.3. Suspected adverse event reports in animals

6.3.1 These were not discussed.

### 6.4. Environmental incidents

6.4.1 These were not discussed.

## 7. Consideration of an application: ref no. 01209/2019

7.1. The Committee was updated on a current application for an Animal Test Certificate which they would be asked to examine at a future date.

## 8. Evaluation of VMD assessment reports: Results

8.1. The Committee discussed the summary of Members' evaluations of four products selected at the last meeting and Officials responded to comments raised.

8.2. The Committee agreed that the VMD assessments of quality, efficacy and target species safety, safety to the user and consumers, environmental safety and overall benefit:risk for each product were excellent.

8.3. The VPC's evaluation would be included in the overall performance assessment of the VMD, to be published in its Annual Report and Accounts 2019/2020.

8.4. VMD would look at comments provided by Members and provide feedback to the Committee for the next meeting.

## 9. EU Exit

9.1. An update was provided to the Committee by the Director of Authorisations on the work that is being done during the transition period. Updates will continue to be provided to the Committee under the heading of 'Transition period and activities'.

## 10. Items for information

10.1. The following items for information are publicly available:

10.1.1 The Veterinary Medicines Directorate Product Information Database (<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/>).

10.2. The following items for information are not publicly available:

10.2.1 Report to the VPC on new ATC applications.

10.2.1.1. One member asked what the purpose of the article recently published by VMD in the Vet Record on Animal Test Certificates was. VMD stated that it receives frequent enquiries from vets and its purpose was to provide clarification on the requirements for an ATC application.

10.2.1.2. The VMD stated that they are arranging a training course on ATCs which may also run as a webinar, and asked Members to identify and send details of people who would be interested.

10.2.2 The Committee asked for future reports to include details of completed ATC applications.

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- 10.2.3 Review of Special Import activity.
  - 10.2.3.1. A presentation on how the VMD manages Special Imports and recent activity was given by Stacey Brown.
  - 10.2.3.2. One member asked for further information including the justification for the import of a product for use in pigs.
- 10.2.4 Report to the VPC on new MA applications granted.
- 10.2.5 Report from the Scientific Secretariat and the Biological Committee.

**11. Horizon scanning: issues for consideration**

- 11.1. The Committee agreed that the following issues could be discussed at future meetings:
  - Environmental risk assessment
  - Antimicrobial resistance
  - Content of packaging/package leaflet

**12. Any other business**

**12.1. Change to distributions**

- 12.1.1 Dan Finn from VMD gave a presentation on the use of secure messaging. This will be available from January 2021 and will be used for future distributions.
- 12.1.2 Distribution of papers for the June meeting will only be available by Eudralink. Members will be given further instruction on how to use this prior to the next meeting.

**13. Date of next meeting**

- 13.1. The next meeting of the VPC will be held on 4 June 2020 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.