



In view of the updated Government guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this notice has been amended to provide that the VMD has made a final extension to the temporary relaxation of specific provisions of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 as set out below. This relaxation will now last until 31 August 2020 and then cease.

Veterinary surgeons: temporary changes to retail supply

Relaxation of enforcement during COVID-19

Regulations for retail supply of medicines by veterinary surgeons

Veterinary Medicines Regulation 2013 (VMR): paragraph 8 of Schedule 3. In particular:

Supply by a veterinary surgeon from registered premises

8.—(1) A veterinary surgeon may only supply a veterinary medicinal product from practice premises registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as veterinary practice premises at which veterinary medicinal products are stored or supplied.

During the COVID-19 pandemic

Effective immediately, in view of the unique challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) will adopt the approach set out below to the enforcement of the above requirements until 31 August 2020. In practice, this means that during the current period veterinary surgeons will be allowed to supply veterinary medicines by delegating retail supply to internet retailers or wholesale dealers for home delivery to the end user.

The VMD will not issue an improvement notice in respect of a breach of paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 3 to the VMR during this period, in cases where one of the following optional procedures is observed.

1. [Delegating retail supply to existing internet retailers \(Option 1\)](#)
 - Veterinary surgeons must send their orders (with prescription if it is a POM-V/POM-VPS product) to an established internet retailer, and that retailer must fulfil the supply to the end user on their behalf in the normal way, complying with relevant provisions in the VMR.
2. [Delegating retail supply to wholesale dealer's authorisation \(WDA\) holder \(Option 2\)](#)
 - Veterinary surgeons must send their orders (with prescription if it is a POM-V/POM-VPS product) to a WDA holder, and that WDA holder must fulfil the supply to the end user on their behalf using trained staff in the normal way, complying with relevant provisions in the VMR.
 - Controlled drugs and cold chain products must be sent by the WDA holder via courier/recorded delivery, and they must utilise their existing delivery contract to ensure that these

products are tracked and get to the client/customer in a timely manner, appropriate for the specific product.

For the avoidance of doubt, the VMR continue to apply. This is a statement of a temporary VMD enforcement policy in relation to specific obligations under the VMR only. The VMD may continue to take action to enforce those obligations in cases where the procedures described above are not followed.

This statement is without prejudice to the provisions which are already in place for exceptional circumstances, for example animal welfare reasons, where a veterinary surgeon may instruct a WDA holder to deliver medicines directly to the client's premises.