



Veterinary Products Committee

Published minutes Veterinary medicines regulations Veterinary products committee

A summary of the minutes of the Veterinary Products Committee Meeting held on 1 October 2020 by video conference

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

Officials: Officials may be present for all or part of the meeting or for specific agenda items.

VMD:

Ms A Seager	Ms S Brown
Mr P Green	Mr N Acharyya
Dr G Diesel	Dr M Bos
Dr G Clarke	Ms J Drown
Dr R Cooney	Mr C Abbott

Other:

Ms K Foxall (PHE)
Ms F Kearney (DAERA)

Agenda

1. Announcements and apologies for absence
2. Declaration of interests
3. Presentation: The Role of Veterinary Medicines in the Spread of AMR in the Environment
4. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2020
5. Matters arising from the minutes
 - 5.1. Raising awareness of needlestick injuries
 - 5.2. Injuries relating to veterinary medicines (HSE)
 - 5.3. Article for Veterinary Times – what makes a VMP?
 - 5.4. ATC application training
 - 5.5. List of common acronyms
 - 5.6. Environmental impact of ectoparasiticides
6. UK Pharmacovigilance Report for April to July 2020
7. Consideration of an application: ref no. 01209/2019
8. Evaluation of VMD assessment reports: selection
9. Transition activities
10. Annual declaration of members' interests
11. Items for information
12. Horizon scanning
13. Any other business
14. Date of next meeting

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. No apologies for absence had been received.

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. The role of veterinary medicines in the spread of AMR in the environment

- 3.1. Professor Jason Weeks gave a presentation during which he explained the challenges faced identifying the exposures and risks associated with environmental pathways of antibiotic resistance caused by veterinary medicines and finding strategies to deal with them. It was proposed to send the information to the Defra department responsible for this area.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2020

- 4.1. The committee had cleared the minutes of the June meeting by correspondence and the Summary minutes were available on the VPC website (www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-products-committee/about/membership).

5. Matters arising from the minutes

- 5.1. February minute 5.2.2: Raising awareness of needlestick injuries
 - 5.1.1 Members are drafting an article for nurse practitioners and would report back at the next meeting.
- 5.2. February minute 5.2.4: Injuries relating to veterinary medicines
 - 5.2.1 VMD reported that they had not yet been able to progress looking at ways of sharing information with HSE due to Covid-19.
- 5.3. February minute 5.7.1: Article for Veterinary Times
 - 5.3.1 Members were informed that VMD has written an article for public information about what makes a veterinary medicinal product and they would be informed when it is published.
- 5.4. February minute 10.2.1: ATC application training
 - 5.4.1 VMD reported that a date hasn't been set yet for the course it is intending to run for companies making ATC applications. Any further indications of interest can be sent to the secretariat.
- 5.5. June minute 4.2 Acronyms
 - 5.5.1 A list of commonly used acronyms was provided for members' information.
- 5.6. June minute 11.1 Environmental impact of ectoparasiticides
 - 5.6.1 An ad hoc expert group consisting of VPC members and VMD staff had met recently to discuss the environmental impact of topical spot-on ectoparasiticides for companion animals. A number of issues for further consideration had been identified and the Chairman of the group, Professor Weeks, will provide a note of these before it meets again.

6. The UK Pharmacovigilance report

6.1. Introduction

- 6.1.1 The committee considered and commented upon the pharmacovigilance report for April to July 2020, which was presented by the head of the VMD's Pharmacovigilance Unit.

6.2. Suspected adverse event reports in humans

6.2.1 A member commented on the reports of finger lacerations in vets following use of a product for dogs. VMD confirmed that the MAH has sent out user guidance to help prevent these injuries and has submitted a variation application to update the SPC with clearer user guidance. VMD also confirmed that the number of reports received will be monitored to assess the effectiveness of these risk mitigation measures.

6.2.2 A member questioned how a report of an imported product was received.

Post-meeting note: VMD have confirmed that this report was received from the MAH of the product.

6.2.3 A member noted a report involving chlorhexidine and an anaphylactic reaction in the dog owner. It was noted that chlorhexidine is not a veterinary medicine and therefore it needs to be confirmed if HSE regulates these products; and if so, ensure the report has been forwarded to them.

Post-meeting note: HSE confirmed that they do not regulate these products and any concerns should be notified to the reporter's local trading standards. VMD has advised the reporter of this case accordingly.

6.3. Suspected adverse event reports in animals

6.3.1 VMD highlighted a signal noted for convulsions following use of a product for cats. VMD informed members that it had been decided that the MAH would be requested to update the SPC to improve the dosing instructions and include convulsions in section 4.6.

6.4. Environmental incidents

6.4.1 Four reports were noted; two of which involved death in bees with potential links to the use of ectoparasiticides in pets.

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

7.1. The committee was informed that after the last meeting VMD had asked several members to consider a risk mitigation issue concerning an application for an animal test certificate for a vaccine. The group had provided advice which VMD had taken under consideration.

8. Evaluation of VMD assessment reports: selection

8.1. This is the annual exercise for the VPC to select assessment reports for marketing authorisation applications where the VMD has led and completed the initial assessment in the 12 months leading up to the end of August 2020 for evaluation. The committee was asked to select three pharmaceutical products from the list provided and one biological product, at least one of which should be indicated for use in a food-producing species.

8.2. The assessment reports for the selected products would be sent to members by 15 October for them to evaluate against the specified criteria. Members were asked to submit their evaluations to the secretariat by 24 December so that they could be presented to the committee for discussion at its meeting in February 2021.

9. Transition period activities

9.1.1 VMD gave a verbal report on the issues it was dealing with as part of preparing for the end of the transition period. It intends to hold a virtual Open meeting in November to inform stakeholders about what it has done in the last year and upcoming changes. Several members volunteered to record short sections about topics which have been considered by the Committee. VMD will provide them with guidance on how to do this.

10. Annual return of Members' interests

10.1. Members were asked to send their declared interests to the Secretariat.

11. Items for information

11.1. The following items for information are publicly available:

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

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

11.2.1 Report to the VPC on new ATC applications.

11.2.2 Review of Special Import activity.

11.2.2.1. Members were asked to send any questions about the reports to the VMD.

11.2.3 Report to the VPC on new MA applications granted.

11.2.4 Report from the Scientific Secretariat and the Biologicals Committee.

11.2.5 Dates of VPC meetings to be held in 2021

11.2.5.1. The dates for meetings in 2021 were presented for members' information. VMD confirmed that the option to join meetings by video conference would remain if they are held at the VMD.

12. Horizon scanning: issues for consideration

12.1. A member reported that packaging and package leaflets for products were not always legible and VMD said that the wording format has to comply with national guidelines and asked that any examples be reported to them.

12.2. It was agreed that issues with availability of medicines such as supply chain vulnerabilities and shortage of new novel products would be a useful topic to be considered at a future meeting after the transition period ends.

12.3. Mr Statham and Professor Weeks agreed to speak on the subject of climate mitigation/adaptation and the use of veterinary medicines at a future meeting.

12.4. The impact on prescribing caused by the recategorisation of medicines was considered as a future topic. VMD noted that these matters were largely outside its remit but it may be possible to provide the committee with product sales information.

13. Any other business

13.1. A member raised a question in regards to the correct use of the cascade for a specified feed additive and was asked to submit his question in writing so VMD could consider further and respond outside the meeting.

14. Date of next meeting

14.1. The next meeting of the VPC will be on 4 February 2021 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.