

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

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Veterinary  
Products  
Committee

**Published minutes**

**A summary of the minutes of the Veterinary Products Committee Meeting held on 4 June 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

**VMD:**

Ms A Seager  
Mr P Green  
Dr G Diesel  
Dr R Cooney  
Dr S Spencer  
Dr G Clarke  
Ms G Blanc  
Ms V Herbert  
Ms R Pearson  
Ms S Brown  
Mr C Abbott

**Officials**

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

JUNE 2020 MEETING  
Revised 21/07/2020  
#1884921  
VMD/L4/CST/004/C

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Chairman's initials.....

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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 Apologies for absence had been received from Professor Borriello and Mr Millward.
- 1.3 This was the first meeting to be held entirely online, and the agenda had been shortened with a few items postponed to later meetings, The Chairman hoped that the online format would not stifle discussion, and confirmed that the meeting was being minuted but not recorded.

**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 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020**

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

**4 Matters arising from the minutes**

- 4.1 The Committee noted that most of the actions from the previous meeting had been delayed or put on hold due to COVID-19.

**4.2 Acronym changes**

- 4.2.1 Members noted that the Animal Medicines Training Regulatory Authority (AMTRA) has chosen to refer to their SQPs as Registered Animal Medicines Advisors (RAMAs). VMD officials said that this had been discussed with them but the official terminology is in legislation and will not be changed.
- 4.2.2 Following a request from Members it was agreed that a list of commonly used acronyms would be provided before the next meeting.

**Action Point 1**

**5 Consideration of an application: ref no. 01209/2019**

- 5.1 VMD officials updated the Committee about the progress of an ATC application for a new vaccine which had been discussed at the last meeting. It was now almost at a stage where VMD would like to seek advice from the Committee. It was agreed that a small group of Members might review the documents and provide that advice, and, depending on the outcome of that, the relevant documents would be sent to Members before the next meeting to deal with by correspondence.

**Action Point 2**

**6 Consideration of an application: ref no. 01627/2019**

- 6.1 The Committee examined evidence relating to an application to change the legal distribution category of two products from Non-Food Animal – Veterinarian, Pharmacist, SQP (NFA-VPS) to Authorised Veterinary Medicine – General Sales List (AVM-GSL).
- 6.2 The Committee provided advice for consideration by the VMD.

**7 Consideration of an application: ref no. 01649/2019**

- 7.1 The Committee examined evidence relating to an application to change the legal distribution category of a product from NFA-VPS to AVM-GSL.
- 7.2 The Committee provided advice for consideration by the VMD.

**8 COVID-19 activities**

- 8.1 VMD has been working with Government on an emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis and at the same time continuing business as usual. It has been consulting with international counterparts and the pharmaceutical industry to ensure supply chains are maintained. The diversion for use of veterinary manufacturers for human vaccine has been explored. Some easements to the regulatory framework including prescribing practice for veterinary medicines have been introduced to help maintain their availability. These easements are temporary relaxations in the way the regulations are enforced and not changes to the legislation. Members were assured that the COVID-19 response is being reviewed on a continual basis and lessons are being learned about the nature of the supply chain and its dependencies.

**9 Items for information**

- 9.1 The following items for information are publicly available:
- 9.1.1 The Veterinary Medicines Directorate Product Information Database (<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/>).
- 9.1.2 The *Veterinary Record* (<http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/>)
- 9.2 The following items for information are not publicly available:
- 9.2.1 UK Pharmacovigilance report for December to March 2020.
- 9.2.1.1 A Member noted reports which described how vets had lacerated their fingers whilst opening vials of a veterinary medicine. The marketing authorisation holder has submitted a variation to introduce clearer user instructions and in addition has produced a separate guidance document which they have distributed to all their customers.
- 9.2.1.2 A Member noted several reports of accidental self injection but these were not thought to be statistically significant. It was reassuring that there seems to be more appropriate treatment being given for needlestick injuries.
- 9.2.2 Report to the VPC on new ATC applications.
- 9.2.3 Report to the VPC on Special Import Certificates/Special Treatment Certificates.
- 9.2.4 Report to the VPC on new MA applications granted.
- 9.2.5 Report from the Scientific Secretariat and the Biological Committee.

**10 Horizon scanning: issues for consideration**

- 10.1 Professor Weeks offered to give a presentation on the environmental assessment for antimicrobials at the next meeting. A member also requested that the VMD explain how the work of the VPC will be impacted by the end of the transition period. Other topics suggested for future meetings were:
- The content of packaging and the package leaflet for veterinary medicines
  - Climate mitigation/adaptation and the use of veterinary medicine.

11 **Any other business**

- 11.1 VMD agreed to look into establishing a group to discuss the potential environmental impacts of veterinary products.

**Action Point 3**

12 **Date of next meeting**

- 12.1 The next meeting of the VPC will be on 1 October 2020 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.