



## Veterinary Medicines Directorate

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 practice premises: temporary change of premises

Relaxation of enforcement during COVID-19

#### Regulations for supply/veterinary practice premises

Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (VMR) – Schedule 3 paragraph 2 and 8. In particular:

##### *Wholesale supply of veterinary medicinal products*

2.—(1) *Only a holder of a marketing authorisation, the holder of a manufacturing authorisation or the holder of a wholesale dealer's authorisation granted by the Secretary of State may supply a veterinary medicinal product wholesale, or be in possession of it for that purpose.*

(2) *A person mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) may only supply a veterinary medicinal product if—*

*(a) the authorisation in question relates to that product, and*

*(b) the supply is to another person who is entitled to supply that product under these Regulations, either wholesale or retail.*

(...)

##### *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.*

(...)

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Controlled Drugs Guidance:

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/controlled-drugs-guidance/?destination=%2Fnews-and-views/publications%2F>

#### 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:

- (a) veterinary surgeons will be allowed to supply veterinary medicines from a temporary premises when access to the Veterinary Practice Premises (VPP) registered with the RCVS is limited or no longer possible (for example when the registered VPP is (part of) a private residence where people are self-isolating due to COVID-19 or the practice has been temporarily closed and veterinary surgeons need to work from home); and
- (b) wholesale dealers will be allowed to supply veterinary medicines to veterinary surgeons at such temporary premises.

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, or an associated breach of paragraph 2(2)(b) of the same Schedule, in cases where the following procedures are observed.

### 1. Use of temporary premises

- The veterinary surgeon must, in writing or by email, notify the VMD and the RCVS of the address of the premises they are temporarily working from. This notice must include:
  - a. The full address and post code;
  - b. The existing VPP registration number;
  - c. Details of the storage of their medicines, including controlled drugs;
  - d. A declaration that they undertake to comply with the VMR.

### 2. Storage of controlled drugs (CD)

- Veterinary surgeons must continue to store CDs securely and appropriately in a suitable cabinet to prevent unauthorised access. The Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1973 describe the requirements for CD cabinets, safes and rooms and the standards to which they must be manufactured or built.
- Any storage in a car must adhere to what is outlined in the RCVS guidance on controlled drugs.

### 3. Wholesale dealer deliveries

- A veterinary surgeon relying on the provisions above must provide the temporary address together with their veterinary surgeon registration number and the RCVS VPP registration number for their permanent address to any wholesale dealer supplying veterinary medicines to the premises. Wholesale dealers may make supplies of veterinary medicines to the temporary address pursuant to such a notification.

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.

## Contact details

To notify the VMD and the RCVS of the temporary address, please use the following emails:

- VMD – [inspections@vmd.gov.uk](mailto:inspections@vmd.gov.uk)
- RCVS – [registration@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:registration@rcvs.org.uk)