

This publication was withdrawn on 18 July 2024

The [Medicines and Medical Devices Act](#) became law in February 2021.

For more information on veterinary medicines, see the [Veterinary Medicines Directorate \(VMD\) website](#)

Medicines and Medical Devices Bill: Veterinary Medicines

Top Lines

- Veterinary medicines are currently regulated by the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (VMR).
- The VMR set out the UK legal controls on veterinary medicines, including their manufacture, advertising, marketing, supply and administration.
- As the legislative framework for the regulation of veterinary medicines, the VMR will need to be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect developments in UK policy on veterinary medicines, advances in veterinary medicine and changes in international scientific and technical standards.

What does the Bill do?

- It provides the means to maintain and update the legislative framework for the regulation of veterinary medicines after the transition period.
- It requires Regulations under the Bill to be made after having had regard to three factors:
 - safety of veterinary medicines in relation to animals, humans and the environment,
 - availability of veterinary medicines in the UK,
 - ensuring the UK stays an attractive place to develop and supply veterinary medicines.

What is the system we have now?

- Veterinary medicines are regulated by the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (VMR). They came into force on 1st October 2013.
- The VMR set out the UK legal controls on veterinary medicines, including their manufacture, advertising, marketing, supply and administration.
- The VMR help ensure animal welfare and protect the safety of treated animals, people handling the medicines, consumers of produce from treated animals and the environment.

What about antibiotic resistance (AMR)?

- A key priority for the UK Government is to protect human and animal health by minimising the development and spread of AMR. The Government's plans for tackling AMR are set out in the UK five-year AMR national action plan 2019-2024, published in 2019.

The UK's nine ambitions for change, from the UK 2040 AMR Vision:



Will this Bill sort out antibiotic resistance?

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is one of the most pressing global challenges we face this century.
- The powers in this Bill can be used to implement our priorities on AMR by making provision to the VMR.
- For example, we plan to introduce restrictions on the preventative use of antibiotics. In keeping with the statutory consultation requirement in the Bill, we will consult with all interested stakeholders before making changes to the VMR.

Sales of antibiotics for use in food-producing animals, adjusted for animal population (mg/kg), 2014-2018:

