

Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Red Tractor Farms



As of the 1st June 2018 the use of Highest Priority Critically Important antibiotics must be a last resort.

What changed last year?

Vet involvement on farm has always been an important part of the Red Tractor Dairy standards. However, as of 1 October 2017, Red Tractor introduced further standards to ensure dairy farmers can demonstrate responsible use of antibiotics.

All Red Tractor dairy farms are required to undertake an annual review of antibiotics with their vet.

Medicine records or prescription data outlining total antibiotic used (by product type) must be used as the basis for advice on how the farm can use antibiotics as responsibly as possible without compromising animal welfare.

As well as discussing recommendations for responsible use, the vet review must include discussions on antibiotic failures and overall use of dry cow therapy.

It is also recommended that a member of staff attend a training course in the handling and administration of medicines. This could be delivered by a vet practice.

What is new

As of the 1st June 2018 the use of Highest Priority Critically Important antibiotics must be a last resort and their use must be under the direction of a vet, backed up by sensitivity or diagnostic testing.



Where to find more information

Red Tractor dairy standards including templates, checklists and documents for vets can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2px7dvg>

STANDARD: AM.f.1

Medicine records must provide an annual collation of total antibiotic used for the unit

HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- Antibiotics collated by product name;
- Collation either by vet from prescription data or completed by farmer from medicine records;
- If new legislation requires this total to be presented in a different format this is also acceptable

RECORDS: Collation of antibiotic use

STANDARD: AM.f.2

An annual review of antibiotics used must be undertaken by the vet

HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- Vet review to:
 - Include review of medicines and antibiotic purchase and use, including antibiotic collation;
 - Includes discussion on the use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs)
 - Include review of any antibiotic failures;
 - Include recommendation for responsible reduction of antibiotic use where possible, in particular, in relation to HP-CIAs
 - Review overall use of dry cow therapy and protocols and where appropriate make recommendations for selective antibiotic use
- Review can form part of the Vet Health and Performance Review

STANDARD: AM.a.1

Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics must only be used as a last resort under veterinary direction

HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- HP-CIAs are defined by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) as 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, and colistin
- Use is supported by a vet report outlining one or more of the following:
 - Sensitivity testing
 - Diagnostic testing

RECORDS: Vet report outlining sensitivity test reports/ diagnostic test reports

STANDARD: AM.b.1

It is recommended that at least one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training in the handling and administration of medicines

HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED:

- Training courses include but are not limited to MilkSure, City & Guilds, Lantra, veterinary-run training courses

RECORDS: Certificate of Competence / Certificate of Attendance