



European law on veterinary medicines: what's new?



The EU has officially adopted new legislation on veterinary medicines*. It will be applicable in all EU countries from 28 January 2022.

FVE has actively contributed to the drafting of the Regulations, allowing the new legislation to strengthen the position of the veterinarian.

The rules are more transparent and easier to implement, helping the profession in safeguarding animal health, animal welfare and public health, including combating antimicrobial resistance.

What will change in veterinary practice?



Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

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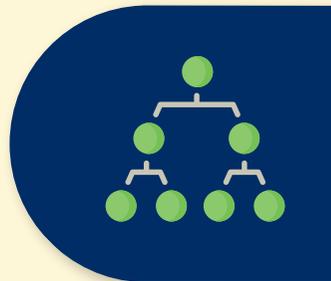
Veterinary prescriptions can only be issued by veterinary surgeons (exceptions apply). The prescription will be valid throughout the EU. The quantity prescribed should be limited to the treatment.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 105



To combat **antimicrobial resistance**, use of certain **important antibiotics** can be restricted or prohibited in animals. The European Commission is expected to draw up a list. Preventive antibiotic use is only permitted in exceptional circumstances. Restrictions also apply to metaphylactic use.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 36, 107



The **prescription cascade** will become more flexible. Importing veterinary medicines from another EU country will become easier. Third country medicines can also be used under certain conditions. Restrictions may apply to antibiotics.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 112-115



On-farm **monitoring** systems of antibiotic use and national surveillance of antibiotic use become mandatory. **Advertising** veterinary prescription medicines in the lay press will be forbidden, although Member States can allow vaccine adverts for farmers.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 57, 120



A central **EU database** of all authorised veterinary medicines will be set up, easily accessible by all veterinarians. **Pharmacovigilance** data, recording adverse events, will become accessible to all veterinarians. The reporting will become more user-friendly.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 55, 56, 74.



Medicated feeds require a veterinary prescription, can only be prescribed for two weeks and cannot contain more than one antimicrobial substance. Preventive antibiotic use is not allowed, metaphylactic use only under certain conditions.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 105, 109, Reg. 2019/4 Art. 16



Online sales are only allowed for medicines not requiring a veterinary prescription. Individual Member States can overrule this, but only on their own territory. Legal online pharmacies must be monitored and certified with a common EU logo.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 104



Imported animals and animal products from outside the EU need to conform to the ban on growth-promoting antimicrobials and the ban on antibiotics reserved for human use.

Reg. 2019/6 Art. 118

* Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicines: <https://tinyurl.com/ywz8dd4d> (replacing Directive 2001/82/EC, <https://tinyurl.com/yfsw6etu>) - Regulation (EU) 2019/4 on medicated feed: <https://tinyurl.com/ywkwk354> (replacing Council Directive 90/167/EEC, <https://tinyurl.com/y2pzaqjd>).