



FDA Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Regulation

New rules for antibiotic use on the farm: effective January 1, 2017

What are the changes?

- Certain drugs are moving from over-the-counter (OTC) status to VFD status (those administered in feed) or prescription status (those administered in drinking water).
- VFD orders will be required for use of VFD drugs on or in medicated feeds, thereby requiring veterinary oversight.
- “Medically important” antibiotics will only be allowed for FDA-approved uses (e.g. no longer allowed for growth promotion).
- NO EXTRA-LABEL use of VFD drugs in feed allowed.

What is the reason for these rule changes?

Growing concern over general antibiotic-resistance of pathogens resulted in these rule changes as part of an effort to promote judicious use of medically important antibiotics in food-production animals.

What is a Veterinary Feed Directive Order (VFD)?

- A written document issued by a licensed veterinarian (in the context of a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship) that authorizes the use of a VFD drug, or a combination of VFD drug, on or in an animal feed.
- It is similar to a “prescription,” but it requires specific information and language in order to be compliant.
- See other side for sample VFD order form (provided by the AVMA)

What is a “VFD drug”?

A drug deemed “medically important” in humans that is intended for use on or in animal feed, and is used under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

What is the veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR)?

As defined in the AVMA’s Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics:

- The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the patient, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian’s instructions.
- The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of a timely examination of the patient by the veterinarian or medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the operation where the patient is managed.
- The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged for the following: veterinary emergency coverage, and continuing care and treatment.
- The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance, and outcome.
- Patient records are maintained.
- VFD order forms must be kept for minimum of 2 years by the client AND the veterinarian).

How does a producer obtain a VFD feed?

- Contact a licensed veterinarian; obtain a VFD form containing the required information; send the VFD order to the feed supplier to obtain the medicated feed.
- Clients are prohibited from the use of any VFD feed beyond the scope of the recommendations of the veterinarian.
- VFD feed(s) and VFD drug(s) cannot be shared with other operations.

Drugs moving from OTC status to VFD status:

Class of Antibiotic	Examples
Aminoglycosides	Apramycin, Hygromycin B, Neomycin, Streptomycin, Gentamicin
Diaminopyrimidines	Ormetoprim
Lincosamides	Lincomycin
Macrolides	Erythromycin, Oleandomycin, Tylosin
Penicillins	Penicillin
Streptogramins	Virginiamycin
Sulfas	Sulfadimethoxine, Sulfamerazine, Sulfamethazine, Sulfaquinoxaline
Tetracyclines	Chlortetracycline, Oxytetracycline

Drugs that ALREADY require a VFD:

- Avilamycin, Florfenicol, Tilmicosin

Drugs that do NOT require a VFD (see chart below):

- Are not “medically important” or are not antimicrobials

Ionophores	(Monensin, Lasalocid, etc),
Bacitracin	BMD, bacitracin zinc
Bambermycins	Flavomycin
Carbadox	
Anthelmintics	Coumaphos, Fenbendazole, Ivermectin
Beta-agonists	Ractopamine, Zilpaterol
Coccidiostats	Clopidol, Decoquinat, Diclazuril

For more information, contact your private veterinarian or University of Hawaii Extension:

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