FACT SHEET:
CHANGES TO USE OF MEDICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIMICROBIALS

As of December 1, 2018, all Medically Important Antimicrobials (MIAs) will require a prescription from a veterinarian, and can only be dispensed by a veterinarian, licensed pharmacist. Health Canada is making these changes in an effort protect human health by decreasing the opportunity for antibiotic resistant organisms to emerge. The list of drugs is based on the Antimicrobial categorization determined by Health Canada in relation to their importance to Human Medicine.

What is an antimicrobial?

What are MIAs?

Some MIAs include: (star beside antimicrobials commonly used in horses)

- Apramycin
- Bacitracin * (BNP ointment for eyes, topical medications)
- Erythromycin
- Lincomycin
- Neomycin *
- Penicillin G *(common penicillin)
- Spectinomycin
- Streptomycin/ Dihydrostreptomycin
- Sulphonamides * (commonly used oral medication)
- Tetracycline/Chlortetracycline/oxytetracycline *
- Tilmicosin
- Tiamulin
- Virginiamycin
- (or their salts or derivatives)

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How do you prepare for these changes?

1. Develop a valid client-patient relationship (VCPR) with your veterinarian. Confirm that you have a VCPR before December 1st, 2018.
2. Share this information with other horse owners.
3. Consider developing a farm plan with your veterinarian.
4. If you live in a remote area, talk with your veterinarian about how you will access antimicrobials in an emergency. Conversations with local pharmacies may be helpful to determine what medications they carry.

What is a VCPR?

Veterinary client-patient relationship is the relationship you establish with your veterinarian and the terms to which it operates under. A strong VCPR is most important in areas where access to veterinary care is limited due to distance and remote access. By establishing the terms with the veterinarian, you are prepared in the event that a prescription is needed in a timely fashion. The terms of VCPR are based on the veterinarian's knowledge of the animals and the people who care for them.