

PVS Prescribing Principles for Antimicrobials & eMB-Pigs

Some time ago, the Pig Veterinary Society (PVS) put together a document outlining the recommended prescribing principles for antimicrobials. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is of increasing concern worldwide within the veterinary field, and even more so in human medicine.

The majority of scientific evidence shows that the selection of resistance in bacteria occurs both naturally and also in response to antimicrobial use. On the whole, most resistance in an animal population occurs as a result of antimicrobial use within the same species. There is some evidence however that shows, in limited situations, AMR can transfer between species, either by movement of a whole bacteria (such as zoonotic organisms that can be transferred between animals and humans, and vice versa) or by a limited exchange of genetic material between bacterial populations.

PVS fully supports the responsible use of antimicrobials and recommends a two part approach to minimise the risk of transfer of AMR:

1. Minimising the total amount of all antimicrobials used on pig farms
2. Considering the types of antimicrobials used in pigs. All antibiotics have been categorised into 3 classes, class 3 includes antibiotics also used in human medicine and so their use is voluntarily restricted – these include fluoroquinolones and colistin

Particularly in an outbreak of a new disease on farm, but also where there is chronic, long-term, disease problems, submitting samples to laboratories from freshly died or euthanased pigs that have not received antimicrobials is important to gain a diagnosis as well as to obtain an antibiotic sensitivity report. These sensitivity tests aid antibiotic selection, show any changes compared to previous results in a chronic disease problem, and also help support the use of antimicrobials from class 3 where necessary. Please [click here](#) to read the full, regularly updated, PVS document.

Electronic Medicine Book – Pigs (eMB – Pigs)

As many of our clients are already aware, a new website to help pig producers accurately record and report antibiotic use has now been available for a few months. This has been developed by both AHDB Pork and also the VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directorate).

The eMB-Pigs website can be used to upload the total antibiotic usage records for Red Tractor assurance purposes. It can also be used as an electronic medicine book, replacing current medicine books or systems and so giving a more accurate total antibiotic usage record. In the long-term it can be used to compare antibiotic use to other similar farms through anonymised data. It will also be able to provide an anonymised, aggregated national record of total antibiotic usage for the VMD when needed.

In order to use this please [click here](#) – login details are the same as those already used for the AHDB Pig Hub and eAML2. Feedback from producers to AHDB Pork is welcomed and will be used to develop the system further, tailoring it so that it will be easier to use in the future.

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Swine Dysentery Case – confirmed

As you may already be aware, **a second case of Swine Dysentery**, since April this year, has now been confirmed in Yorkshire. Swine Dysentery is caused by infection with the bacterium *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*. A pig becomes infected when it ingests only a small amount of infected pig muck. Although it is only spread through infected faecal material, only around half of Swine Dysentery outbreaks are due to spread by infected pigs, the remainder involving spread of infected pig faeces by items that come into contact with them such as transport lorries.

Many disinfectants are effective, but only on spotlessly clean surfaces and not if the bacteria are protected by faeces or mucous. The bacteria survives in wet and cold conditions, but heat and dry, clean surfaces will destroy them.

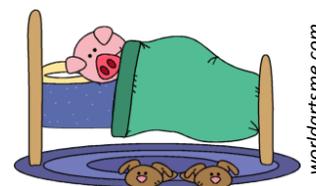
Thorough biosecurity principles are important at all times, but these should be especially heightened at present in light of the recent confirmed cases. Please bear in mind the following:

- Lorries – should be able to access your farm over a clean route without becoming contaminated with your farm faeces or run off. If stopping them at your perimeter is not possible, at the very least wash off their wheel arches and tyres and then disinfect them, both before and after the visit. Make sure these washings have no contact with your pigs. Staff should also wash and disinfect before re-entering the farm and drivers should remain on the loading area.
- Please remember that **cull sow transport** probably represents more risk than slaughter pigs due to the smaller nature of loads and the busy nature of markets with multiple sources.
- Laboratories – after entering this high risk public access site, a full wash and disinfect of both the vehicle and the driver's boots is advised.
- Fellmongers – be careful of where they drive, how and where they collect your deadstock, and always thoroughly clean and disinfect areas where they have been.

Please [click here](#) for our full Swine Dysentery article.

Current Clinical Trends – What are we seeing out there?...

As farms are reaching the end of their stores of straw we are seeing skin lesions associated with Erysipelas, along with reproductive issues with sows. Erysipelas is caused by infection with the bacterium *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* and can affect stock 6 weeks of age and older. It spreads between pigs by contact with infected saliva, urine, faeces and nasal discharges.



It can survive for a long time in the environment, surviving in soil or muck for 6 months or longer. It is relatively resistant to drying, making environment control difficult. Please [click here](#) to read our full article on Erysipelas.

Feedback

Please let us know if there is anything that you would like including, or more information on, in a future newsletter.

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