

The ATCvet classification system

The Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical classification system for veterinary medicinal products, ATCvet, is based on the same main principles as the ATC classification system for drug substances used in human medicine. This may allow for comparison of the use of medicines between the human and veterinary sector. Usually an ATCvet code is created by inserting Q in front of an existing ATC code in the human ATC system when classifying a product in the ATCvet system. In some cases, specific ATCvet codes have been created.

ATCvet is updated annually according to amendments and changes in the ATC system. For substances used in human medicine only the assigned ATCvet codes are currently “silent” codes. However, as some of the codes may be relevant for veterinary medicine in the future, the codes have been included in the ATCvet system.

All assigned ATCvet codes can be found in the complete *ATCvet Index*, which is issued annually. Copies of the complete Index and Guidelines for ATCvet classification and can be ordered from the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology.

A searchable ATCvet Index, as well as further information about the ATCvet classification system, is available on the Internet, at the web site of the WHO Centre, <http://www.whooc.no/atcvet/>. The Guidelines for ATCvet classification is also available in PDF format at the web site.

Substances without ATCvet codes and/or ATCvet names

If a substance or combination of substances cannot be identified in Table 1, please contact the WHO Collaboration Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology, E-mail: whooc@fhi.no.

To classify substances/combinations currently not included in the system, the Centre will as a minimum need a product description (Summary of Product Characteristics, SPC), preferably in English. The Centre will in most cases assign an ATCvet code. These codes will later have to be confirmed by the ATCvet Working Group. A simple application form can be found at the web site.

The ATCvet system apply WHO International Nonproprietary Names (INN names) when available. If INN names are not assigned, the ATCvet system applies either USAN (United States Adopted Names) or BAN (British Approved Names).

ATCvet codes for the groups of antimicrobial agents included in the ESVAC program

The ATCvet codes for the groups of antimicrobial agents currently included in the ESVAC program are shown in Table 1.

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