



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP)

Mandate, objectives and rules of procedure for the CVMP Antimicrobials Working Party (AWP)

1. General considerations

According to the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) rules of procedure, the CVMP may consult its working parties on any scientific issue related to their specific fields of expertise. The CVMP may also delegate certain tasks associated with the scientific evaluation of applications, or drafting of guidelines to the relevant working parties. The tasks identified by the CVMP should be included in the work programme of each working party to be adopted by the CVMP.

The Antimicrobials Working Party (AWP) is therefore established to provide advice, on a consultative basis, to specific questions raised by the CVMP on all matters regarding authorisation and use of veterinary medicines containing antimicrobial substances.

The AWP carries forward the work initiated by the former CVMP Scientific Advisory Group on Antimicrobials (SAGAM).

2. Mandate and objectives

The AWP is established to provide advice to the Committee on all issues relating to antimicrobials, including but not limited to the tasks defined below:

- Advise the CVMP on matters related to preparation of guidelines on antimicrobials.
- Keeping the CVMP abreast of developments at European and international level on the latest scientific knowledge with regard to all matters concerning the use of antimicrobials and in particular resistance development.
- Provide advice on the need to exercise certain control on those classes of compounds of critical importance to human and animal medicine e.g. fluoroquinolones, 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins and macrolides.
- Consider recommendations for the CVMP on the type of communication and its content regarding relevant issues of authorisation requirements of antimicrobials.
- Support dossier evaluation and referrals for antimicrobials as required by the CVMP.
- International cooperation on antimicrobial related issues.



- Advise, through the CVMP, to the European Commission on antimicrobial resistance related issues.

3. Composition and rules of participation

The AWP is composed of a limited number of experts, ideally between 10 and 12 identified by the CVMP on the basis of their specific scientific expertise on basis of the subjects covered within the scope of the working party and based on nominations from the CVMP or the European Medicines Agency (EMA/the Agency).

In order to ensure that the mandate and objectives of the working party can be accomplished, the following areas of expertise are considered necessary:

- Microbiology
 - Methods of antimicrobial resistance detection and characterisation, interpretative criteria (breakpoints, cut-off values), MIC determination.
 - Surveillance and reporting of resistance.
 - Resistance patterns in zoonotic pathogens and indicator bacteria.
- Antimicrobial resistance risk assessment.
- Efficacy of antimicrobials (including PK/PD) in animals.
- Use of antimicrobials in different target animal species (especially poultry, pigs, cattle).
- Human and veterinary public health (“One Health” perspective) and infection control.

Membership of a working party implies a commitment to participate actively in the work of that working party and to attend the meetings of the working party regularly. Given the restricted membership of this working party, if a member does not participate in 3 consecutive meetings without reasonable justification the CVMP Secretariat will ask the CVMP, in consultation with the WP Chairperson, to reconfirm his/her membership or to nominate a new one.

A member may nominate a replacement to participate in those exceptional cases where he or she is not able to attend a meeting.

Members who want to bring additional experts should notify the Secretariat of the Agency in advance to the meeting, subject to the agreement of the Chairperson.

Meeting documentation will be distributed to an agreed list of recipients drawn up by the Agency with the agreement of the Chairperson.

CVMP members are encouraged to take an active role in the activities of the AWP.

4. Meeting frequency

The AWP shall meet three or four times per year in accordance with the adopted work programme. The dates of the meetings shall be included in the work programme of the working party.

5. Duration of activity (in the case of temporary working parties)

Not applicable.

6. Rules of procedure

6.1. Responsibilities of Chairperson

The Chairperson is responsible for the efficient conduct of the business of the working party and shall in particular:

- Plan the work of the working party together with the Secretariat;
- Monitor, together with the Secretariat, that the rules of procedure are respected;
- Ensure that at the beginning of each meeting any potential conflict of interest is declared regarding any particular item to be discussed by the working party;
- Aim to achieve consensus on issues discussed by the working party;
- Decide in exceptional cases, when a vote is necessary;
- Ensure, together with the working party and the Secretariat, the regulatory and scientific consistency of the working party's recommendations;
- Co-ordinate together with the Secretariat the work of this working party with that of the other relevant working parties of the Agency; and
- Report on the activities of the working party to the CVMP or other working parties as appropriate.

6.2. Election of Chairperson

The Chairperson of the AWP shall be elected by the members of the CVMP for a term of three years, which may be renewed once. A CVMP member, preferably, an alternate or a member of the AWP, may be elected by the CVMP to fulfil this responsibility.

A Vice-Chairperson(s) may be elected by the CVMP if the working party and CVMP considers it appropriate.

Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Agency's Secretariat no later than the start of the CVMP meeting at which election of working party chairpersons is to take place.

Candidates shall submit a brief résumé in support of their candidature at the time of the nomination.

The election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson, where appropriate, shall follow the same procedure as that for the election of the chairperson of the CVMP as stated in Article 3, paragraphs 1 to 4, of the Rules of Procedure of the CVMP.

6.3. Organisation of meetings and reporting arrangements

1. The AWP shall meet regularly at the Agency.
2. The dates of meetings are decided on an annual basis in consultation with the AWP and the CVMP.
3. The meetings will be held and minuted in English.
4. The draft agenda for every meeting shall be circulated, together with the related documents, by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairperson, at least 14 calendar days before the meeting.

5. When a member of the AWP is not able to participate in a meeting, part of a meeting, or a discussion topic due to conflict of interest, he/she must inform the Secretariat in advance in writing.
6. The working party may identify and propose topics for its consideration. Any proposal for a guideline, providing adequate justification, shall be transmitted to the CVMP for endorsement and shall be preceded by a concept paper to be endorsed by the CVMP.
7. Any recommendation from the AWP shall be transmitted to the CVMP for adoption.
8. When considered appropriate by the AWP, oral presentations by companies can be made during working party meetings on matters directly related to the activities of the working party, following agreement of the CVMP.
9. The AWP shall prepare an annual work programme for adoption by the CVMP which shall include topics identified in accordance with point 6 above and any specific tasks identified by the CVMP. The work programme shall be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary with the agreement of the CVMP.
10. Agenda, table of conclusions and minutes of the meetings of the working party shall be circulated to the CVMP.
11. The Chairperson will be invited to attend CVMP plenary meetings to report on the activities of the AWP and ensure liaison with the work of the CVMP.
12. The mandate and objectives of the AWP shall be agreed by the CVMP. They shall be reviewed, every three years by the Committee.

6.4. Drafting groups

When further consideration is required in order to prepare proposals on specific topics, the working party may convene drafting groups constituted of members of the working party or experts, as appropriate.

The drafting group will report to its working party in direct line.

6.5. Participation of experts in meetings

1. When necessary, the working party may avail itself of the services of experts in specific scientific or technical fields. Such experts shall have proven experience in the assessment of medicinal products or in their field of expertise and be included in the European Experts list. Where appropriate, members from patient organisations or other health care professionals may act as experts.
2. The names of these experts shall be notified to the Secretariat before the meeting that they are due to attend.

6.6. Guarantees of independence

1. The members of the working party and experts referred to above shall not have any direct interests in the pharmaceutical industry, which could affect their impartiality. They shall undertake to act in the public interest and in an independent manner, and shall make an annual declaration of their financial interests. All indirect interests that could relate to the pharmaceutical industry shall be entered in a register held by the Agency, which is accessible to the public, on request at the Agency's office.

2. Members of the working party and experts attending these meetings shall declare at the beginning of each meeting any specific interests, which could be considered to be prejudicial to their independence with respect to the points of the agenda. These declarations shall be made available to the public.
3. The specific provisions for handling declarations of interests and confidentiality undertakings as defined in the European Medicines Agency policy on the handling of declarations of interests of scientific committees' members and experts, adopted by the Management Board (EMA/626261/2014) are applicable to members of the working party and experts participating in the activities of the working party.

6.7. Code of conduct

Members of the working party and experts participating in the EMA's activities shall abide by the principles set out in the European Medicines Agency Code of Conduct (EMA/385894/2012).

6.8. EMA secretariat

1. Under the authority of the Executive Director, the Secretariat shall provide technical, scientific and administrative support to the working party. This includes the following:
 - Provide technical and scientific support to rapporteurs, (guidelines), and other members of the working party;
 - Provide legal, regulatory and scientific support to the working party;
 - Prepare and co-ordinate the work of the working party in consultation with their Chairpersons;
 - Organise meetings of the working party ensuring timely circulation of meeting documents;
 - Facilitate the necessary contacts between the working party and the CVMP;
 - Ensure adequate co-ordination of the work carried out within the working party, the CVMP and other concerned working parties and/or scientific advisory groups;
 - Contribute to the overall quality assurance and assurance of scientific and regulatory consistency of the documents / recommendations of the working party in co-operation with the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, as appropriate;
 - Prepare the agenda and minutes of the meetings of the working party in consultation with the Chairpersons;
 - Communicate, when necessary, any CVMP recommendations relevant to the working party to interested parties; and
 - Contribute to the identification of experts.
2. The Executive Director of the Agency, members of the Secretariat, and representatives of the Commission may attend all meetings of the working party.

6.9. Contacts with Interested Parties

1. Where relevant, the working party will establish contacts, on an advisory basis, with parties concerned with the use of medicinal products, in particular consumer organisations and health-care professionals' associations.

2. Draft guidelines and general regulatory developments will be subject to public consultation of all interested parties (industry, health care professionals, consumers or other).
3. When considered appropriate by the working party, oral presentations by interested parties can be made during working party meetings in earlier stages of development of guidelines. The working parties may also meet with interested parties to discuss general matters or specific scientific issues with the agreement of the CVMP and under specific conditions to be agreed by the CVMP.
4. In any case, the working party shall neither conduct any deliberations nor reach any formal decisions in the presence of members of interested parties.
5. Before any consultation session, interested party representatives and working party members will communicate to the Secretariat the points they would like to be discussed, so that an agenda of the session can be prepared for agreement by the working party Chairperson and circulation by the Secretariat.

6.10. General provisions

The Members of the working party as well as observers and all experts shall be bound, even after the cessation of their duties, not to disclose any information, which, by its nature, must be covered by individual professional secrecy.

When participating in international or other *fora* on behalf of the CVMP, members shall ensure the views expressed are those of the CVMP.

When participating in international or other *fora* not specifically on behalf of the CVMP, members shall make clear that the views expressed are their own views and not those of the CVMP.