EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

12 March 2026
EMA/CVMP/44250/2026
Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP)

EMA/REF/0000285673

Scientific advice of the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products pursuant to Article 141(1)(i) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6, for

Quarter-based selective antibiotic dry cow therapy

Basis for scientific advice

On 9 July 2025, Germany presented to the European Medicines Agency a request for a scientific advice under Article 141(1)(i) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 from the Agency's Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP) on whether quarter-based selective antibiotic dry cow therapy could be used to reduce antibiotic use and thus likely antimicrobial resistance, without compromising animal health and without contradicting national policies. The notification of request is appended to this scientific advice.

The procedure started on 17 July 2025.

Scientific advice

The CVMP, having considered the matter as set out in the appended assessment report, came to the following conclusions on the issues raised in the request for a scientific advice.

The CVMP concluded that treating all cows and quarters with antibiotics at dry-off offers no signifcant efficacy or safety benefits compared with selective dry cow therapy (SDCT), while selective approaches help reduce antimicrobial use and hence likely antimicrobial resistance. Both cow-based and quarter-based SDCT can be appropriate if supported by good herd management, accurate diagnostics, and the use of teat sealants. The choice between the two approaches should be made case-by-case by the veterinarian together with the farmer, based on herd-specific indicators (e.g. regular dairy herd improvement system results, bulk tank and individual cow somatic cell count (SCC), individual quarter California Mastitis Test (CMT), prevalence of new intramammary infections during the dry period and major causative pathogens) and practical considerations.

In the context of this scientific advice request and based on the assessment of the currently available scientific evidence, the CVMP considered quarter-based selective dry cow antibiotic therapy to be

consistent with the latest scientific knowledge aimed at reducing antibiotic use, without compromising animal health.

The CVMP deliberated on how this approach could be reflected in the product information (summary of product characteristics, labelling, and package leaflet) of the relevant intramammary antibiotic dry cow veterinary medicinal products, so that the approach may be used in accordance with the terms of the markething authorisation. Incorporating such information would provide clear, evidence-based guidance in the product information which is expected to assist veterinarians and farmers in determining whether cow-based or quarter-based selective antibiotic dry cow therapy is more appropriate under specific herd conditions.

This scientific advice is forwarded to the European Commission, to Member States, to Iceland and Norway, together with its appendices.

The CVMP conclusions will be published on the Agency website.

Appendix 1

Grounds for the procedure

(Notification)

Appendix 2

CVMP Assessment Report