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Start of review concerning quarter-based selective dry cow therapy

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has started a review of quarter-based selective dry cow therapy.

In the context of prudent use of antibiotics, the national veterinary medicines regulatory authority of Germany considers it necessary to review whether it is scientifically justifiable to generally allow quarter-based selective dry cow therapy with antibiotic intramammary veterinary medicines (medicines applied into the udder). This approach would allow veterinarians and farmers to practice quarter-based selective dry cow therapy in accordance with the terms of the marketing authorisation, thereby reducing antibiotic use and lowering the risk of resistance development.

The EMA's veterinary medicines committee (CVMP) has received a request from the national veterinary medicines regulatory authority of Germany to assess this matter. The request relates to whether the product information (summary of product characteristics, package leaflet and labelling) of intramammary antibiotic veterinary medicines used at drying off should be amended to allow for selective treatment at quarter level, without contradicting national policies.

EMA will now review all available scientific data to determine if quarter-based selective dry cow antibiotic therapy could be considered consistent with the latest scientific knowledge aimed at reducing antibiotic use, without compromising animal health.

In the interest of transparency, the Agency invites stakeholders (e.g., marketing authorisation holders (MAHs), veterinary healthcare professionals, farmers, academia) to submit any relevant information or data that may assist the CVMP in reaching its scientific advice. Relevant data should be submitted to vet.referrals@ema.europa.eu by 9 October 2025. For MAHs, the Agency would greatly appreciate if data were submitted using the eSubmission Gateway and Web Client.

The data received will be published on the Agency website and will be considered by the CVMP when preparing the scientific advice.

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More about the procedure

The review has been initiated at the request of the veterinary medicines regulatory agency of Germany under Article 141(1)(i) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6. The review is being carried out by the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP), responsible for questions concerning medicines for veterinary use, which will provide a scientific advice.