EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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EudraVigilance Veterinary – Status update report

Management Board meeting 9 June 2011

Background note

The Management Board is being updated twice yearly on the status of EudraVigilance Veterinary.

Matters for consideration

EVVET2 - Current system

- The current system is stable and adverse event reports are building up. It has been agreed not to release any further major revision until the release of EVVET3, foreseen for end 2013.
- Several Member states have put extra effort in submitting their product data, most of them via Eudrapharm which is a welcoming development to allow not only for the post-marketing surveillance of centrally authorised products but also of nationally authorised products on the EudraVigilance Veterinary Data Warehouse.

EVVET3

- The project is on track and a major milestone has been reached with the closure of the inception phase after concluding on the Business Use cases and the updated Project plan. The agreed Business Use Cases have also been circulated to HMA-V.
- Discussions are ongoing at VICH level to conclude the final technical guidelines that will further define EVVET3.

25 May 2011
EMA/13787/2009

EudraVigilance Veterinary

STATUS REPORT TO

EMA MANAGEMENT BOARD / VETJIG[1] / PHVWP-V[2] / CVMP[3] / HMA-V[4] / CMD-V[5]

This document is published on the EVVet Website:
http://eudravigilance.ema.europa.eu/veterinary

Issue/Summary

This document provides a succinct overview on the implementation status and development planning of the European Database for the collection of adverse events related to veterinary medicines; EudraVigilance Veterinary.

The updated parts compared to the last publication of the status report on 1 March 2010 are highlighted with the following symbol 

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[1] Veterinary Joint Implementation Group
[2] Veterinary Pharmacovigilance Working Party
[3] Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products
[4] Heads of Medicines Agencies - Veterinary
[5] The Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Procedures - Veterinary

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Legal and Regulatory framework

EudraVigilance Veterinary has been set-up in line with the legal provisions of Regulation 726/2004 (Art. 57) and Directive 2001/82/EC (Art. 73).

Guidelines specific to the electronic exchange of pharmacovigilance information (legally mandatory since November 2005) have been developed by the Veterinary Joint Implementation Group (VetJIG) and the Veterinary Pharmacovigilance Working Party (PhVWP-V) and have been included in the draft Volume 9B (publication pending). Relevant guidance had already been released on the dedicated Website: http://eudravigilance.ema.europa.eu/veterinary.

The technical data-elements guideline for the original set-up of EudraVigilance Veterinary was released by the CVMP in July 2003 and subsequently revised by the VetJIG in July 2005. A project (EVVET 3) that includes the major revision of the current system was initiated in 2010 and will ensure compliance with VICH Pharmacovigilance guidelines (GL42, GL30, GL24, GL35) as well as making the system more user-friendly with additional functionalities for the surveillance and management of the data.

The guideline on the access to the data in EVVet was finalised and adopted by the Member States at the HMA meeting in Antwerp (October 2010) and by the EMA Management Board in December 2010. The technical implementation of the access policy will be stepwise from 2012 onwards pending on possible budgetary constraints.

The 'Recommendation for the basic surveillance of EudraVigilance Veterinary data' was released on 1 March 2011.

1.2 Partners and fora

While the original data elements guideline was released via the PhVWP-V and the CVMP, further releases and all technical discussions related to EudraVigilance Veterinary have been centralised in the Veterinary Joint Implementation Group (VetJIG). VetJIG meets 4 times per year with representatives from all Member States' authorities, IFAH Europe, European Group for Generic Veterinary Products and the Association of Veterinary Consultants.

The regulatory authorities continue to exercise surveillance on the data available in the local databases as well as the data in EVVet to which all EU regulatory authorities have full access. Procedures are under development to strengthen the role of the PhVWP-V in the overall surveillance of the data in accordance with its mandate.

A further partner is the European Surveillance Strategy group (ESS) that was created in 2005 as a subgroup of HMA-V to make recommendations to HMA-V to improve the coordination and efficiency of pharmacovigilance across the EU.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC REPORTING VIA EVVET AND STATUS OF REPORTING

2.1 EVVET Database overall

The database contains about 39000 adverse event reports having occurred within the EEA and about 17000 cases from outside the EEA; called third country reports. 4075 of the total reports concern reactions observed in humans related to the use of a veterinary medicinal product. Of the total figures, 3550 reports were introduced by the Agency and contain data related to centralised authorised products (CAPs)[6] (from adverse event reports and PSUR data reported before November 2005).

2.2 Implementation by EU Competent Authorities

There are 32 competent authorities registered with a total of 200 different users. Their reporting method can be found on the EVVet Website http://eudravigilance.ema.europa.eu/veterinary

The Luxemburg, Maltese and Romanian authorities are requested to progress with the final registration to EVVet production system.

2.3 Implementation by EU Veterinary pharmaceutical industry

There are 197 organisations registered (marketing authorisation holders and third parties) with a total of 350 different users.

Submission of adverse events is now only accepted via electronic means; EVVet (Gateway or EVWEB), the Simplified Reporting form or any other MS specific available electronic reporting system that is compliant with EVVet (see EVVet Website http://eudravigilance.ema.europa.eu/veterinary).

The use of the Simplified Reporting Form (SEF) has long been compromised because of incompatibility issues with certain Web browsers. The SEF has now been made compatible with Internet Explorer 8 next Internet Explorer 6. SEF is not compatible with Internet Explorer 7 and a specific warning has been added on the Website to clarify this situation prior to accessing the application.

A schematic overview of the reporting procedures to be followed depending on type of product, seriousness of the case, report originating in the EU or in a third country have been published on the EVVet Website (http://eudravigilance.ema.europa.eu/veterinary/reporting.html). A number of practical issues related to reporting have been identified by VetJIG and a corresponding document that specifies "how to avoid common mistakes and inaccuracies when reporting" has been released on the EVVet Website.

[6] CAPS: Centrally Authorised Products

3. EVVET AND ITS SYSTEMS – DEVELOPMENT STATUS

3.1 EudraVigilance Veterinary

The current basis of the system, the data elements guideline version 2.2.1., was released on 9 February 2009.

The release notes of in between releases of EVVet (to e.g. ensure bug fixing) can be found on the EVVet Website:
(http://eudravigilance.ema.europa.eu/veterinary/documentation.html)

A major new release took place on 19 February 2010 with the update of the combined animal and human Veddra terms and the inclusion of new functionalities that give the Web user direct control on the processing and archiving of messages and acknowledgments in the in and outboxes of the Web application. This release also allows for the sending of automatic acknowledgments for Web users.

The online tutorials have also been updated and allow novel users to get familiar with the application.

EVVET 2 is now in evolutive maintenance with no further major releases being planned.

EVVET 3.X

A new project was started at the beginning of 2010 for a major update of the EudraVigilance Veterinary system (see project plan in Annex). The vision for this project includes the modernisation and simplification of the data input and distribution tools, harmonisation with international standards, implementation of the access policy to EVVet data and a new tracking facility that will allow to exchange and store results from data analysis performed on the EVVet data. There will also be a focus on making the data more accessible to veterinarians in order to stimulate reporting.

The risks for the projects have been identified and include its dependency on the integration with other systems and databases in particular the EU product database that at present is not yet available. At the same time the relevant VICH guidelines have still to be finalised and changes to the pharmaceutical legislation are under discussion in the EU and may also affect the project.

The specifications gathering under the second iteration of the inception phase took place within a subgroup of VetJIG; the Technical Advisory Group (EVVET JIG TAG) with participants from regulators as well as industry.

Further interviews with representatives of the veterinary profession (FVE) and practice software providers have also taken place.

A total of 9 Business use cases were developed, mainly by EVVET JIG TAG and were formally adopted during the VETJIG meeting on 15 February following consultation with the PhVWP-V and following notification of the HMA-V meeting in Budapest (January 2011)

The second iteration of the inception phase has come to a close with the adoption of the Business Use Cases, the System Use Case model and the updated Project plan. The elaboration phase has now started aiming to specify the system use cases and the system architecture.

3.2 Recoding application

The recoding application allows linkage of the adverse reaction reports to the dictionary of the veterinary medicinal products (EVVetMPD) and will allow monitoring of data entry quality issues. Most of the product information in the reports are linked automatically to the product dictionary however because of misspelling or other reasons some information needs to be linked manually through this application.

The recoding for reports related to CAPs is ongoing and manual recoding for CAPs is managed at the EMA. The manual recoding process runs efficiently as long as the corresponding product data are available in the EVVetMPD, which is the case for centrally authorised products.

Recoding to the available UK product data has been finalised and recoding for the Irish product data is ongoing. Recoding of data for other Member States is pending the availability of the relevant product data (see under 3.4.).

3.3 Duplicate detection

The first version of the duplicate detection engine is in use. In a novel approach, duplicate reports are linked without the need to create a "master report" and without the need to delete duplicate information. The data analysis tools are adapted to ensure that no double calculation of key data takes place. When a user has performed a query in the data warehouse, the duplicate detection engine allows checking for possible duplicates on the list of cases generated by a query in the data warehouse. The user may then subsequently re-run the same query in the data warehouse that would take into account for any duplicates being identified.

3.4 EudraVigilance Veterinary Medicinal Product Dictionary (EVVetMPD)

The availability of product information is crucial to allow recoding (see 3.2) and subsequent analysis of the safety data within EVVet. A third round of product data transfer from the databases in the Member States to the EVVetMPD is ongoing in line with the HMA agreed procedure where competent authorities provide limited product information for the products named in the safety reports and identified by the Agency.

At the same time, product data provided by the UK, Irish, Italian and Latvian authorities to the Eudrapharm product database have been transferred to the EVVetMPD and monthly updates of new product data in Eudrapharm to the EVVetMPD has been implemented. Product data from Finland, The Netherlands and Denmark are awaited shortly and other Member States are being encouraged to follow the same route for the submission of product data.

3.5 Simplified reporting form for MAHs (SEF)

The simplified reporting form is an additional HTML Web based form that allows MAHs with a relative low reporting frequency to report standardised information without the need to get familiar with the more complicated EVWEB application.

Prior to opening SEF on the Website, further information has been added on the Website to indicate in which Member States the form can be used or whether alternative local electronic reporting systems should be used for particular Member States.

There is an increased interest from companies to choose this reporting form, also for companies responsible for CAPs, however the form is still only occasionally accessed from the EVVet Website.

The form was originally built for use with Internet Explorer 6 (IE6). The form is not compliant with IE7 but has now been made compliant and can be used with the latest IE8.

3.6 EudraVigilance Veterinary Data Warehouse (EVVet DWH)

A major milestone was reached in September 2009 when the CVMP started to access EVVet data directly via the DWH for the monthly surveillance of serious reactions related to CAPs.

The information in the SPCs on adverse reactions for CAPs has been coded into the corresponding Veddra terms and linked to the CAPs product information in EVVet so that Veddra terms that are already in the SPC are highlighted automatically in the output of the results of the DWH queries. This allows the expert when performing surveillance queries, to focus on the terms that are not yet in the SPC.

The limiting factor remains the lack of product information for non-centrally authorised products and consequent recoding (see under 3.2.) before EVVet and the DWH queries can be used efficiently for surveillance of all veterinary medicines in the EU. Recently however, good progress was made by several Member States in transferring product data via Eudrapharm to the EVVET product database and some Member States have started using the EVVET DWH for surveillance of nationally authorised products.

A dedicated sub-PhVWP-V group has developed further specific DWH queries for the surveillance of the data that will allow screening the full data set instead of the current approach that involves a monthly review of all individual new reports for CAPs. The new procedure will be implemented during 2011 for CAPs only.

A new subgroup of the PhVWP-V is continuing the work to further develop approaches for a risk based surveillance and to develop new signal detection techniques. A first meeting took place in April with 3 further meetings scheduled for 2011.

3.7 EVVet Website

The tutorials section has been completed with newly developed multimedia tutorials on the use of EVVet. These tutorials are considered a significant improvement to guide and assist MAHs. The documents are further being updated to include the new EMA LOGO and name.

4. GUIDELINES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION

4.1 Volume 9B Part III

Volume 9B of the Rules governing medicinal products in the European Union including a technical Part III on electronic reporting has been finalised by the CVMP following public consultation and consideration of comments received. The publication is pending.

Because of the need to already provide adequate guidance at this stage to the EU MAH stakeholders it was decided to publish the "reporting schemas" ahead of the release of Volume 9B (see http://eudravigilance.ema.europa.eu/veterinary/whatsnew.html).

4.2 Draft Access Policy

The draft access policies for EVVet data as well as EVHuman data have been endorsed by the HMA (11-12 July 2008). The draft policy was released for consultation in January 2009 for a period of 3 months. A revised access policy document has been finalised during 4th quarter 2010 following discussion at the level of the PhVWP-V, VetJIG, CVMP, and HMA-V. The technical implementation of the access policy will be stepwise from 2011 onwards.

4.3 VICH / ISO / EUTCT

The VICH pharmacovigilance EWG held a successful meeting in London on June 16 – 22 2010, with the finalisation of GL30 (Controlled Lists of Terms) and GL42 (Data Elements for Submission of Adverse Event Reports). Significant progress was made on GL35 (Electronic standard for Transfer of Data) that is published at step 3.

The work of the EWG will be continued by a new group with more technical expertise (Electronic Standards Implementation of Adverse Event Reports Expert Working Group) to focus on the finalisation of GL35 and the implementation and maintenance of the relevant guidelines including taking into account the ongoing development of ISO standards for electronic reporting and product characteristics. The composition of the group should be one business and one IT expert per VICH partner. The VICH Steering Committee has appointed Margarita Brown from the FDA as chair of the group. The FDA has circulated its technical implementation documents for review prior to a first teleconference meeting that is scheduled for 8 June. The EMA has prepared detailed comments to ensure that the future EVVET3 and the current EVVet system can be made compliant with the international standards. These comments were circulated to the group for discussion at the teleconference meeting.

Support is provided to the EUTCT group in the development of several relevant lists, including the species and breeds list and other lists that are currently part of the data elements guideline.

4.4 VeDDRA

VeDDRA 7 was successfully implemented on 6 December 2010 by all major stakeholders while maintaining the possibility for backward compatibility to the EVVet system.

IFAH Europe raised the issue that FDA is unfortunately only able to handle VeDDRA 6 and has not yet scheduled the implementation of the latest version. This creates the situation for multinationals that data need to be kept in different versions. It has been agreed to bring this issue to the ongoing VICH discussions with the aim to agree on a single implementation date across VICH regions.

The yearly Veddra subgroup meeting was successfully held on 10 May 2011. The UK chair was specifically praised for chairing the 4 hours long Vitero meeting that included VICH participation from the US and Canada.

5. Other

5.1 Electronic reporting form for Veterinarians

It is being considered to include an electronic reporting form for veterinarians to the specifications of EudraVigilance Veterinary 3. Interviews with representatives of the Veterinary community to discuss the needs and expectations have taken place during November and December 2010.

5.2 Upcoming Meeting dates

- **VetJIG meetings:**
    - 13 July 2011
    - 12 October 2011

ANNEX

EVVET 3 - Project Plan

Phase	Iteration	Original Planned Start	Original Planned Finish	Expected Start	Expected Finish	Main Goals Summary
Inception	Iteration 1	Jan 2010	Jun 2010	Jan 2010	May 2011	• HL Project Plan • Vision Document with APH Section • Business Use Case Model
Inception	Iteration 2	Jun 2010	Q4 2010	Jun 2010	May 2011	• Updated HL Project Plan • Updated Vision Document • Updated Business Use Case Model • Business Use Cases • System Use Case Model
Elaboration	2 iterations	Q4 2010	Q2 2011	Apr 2011	Jul 2011	• Updated Project Plan • Updated Vision Document • System use Cases (draft versions) • Architecture Specification
Construction	11 iterations	Q2 2011	Q4 2013	Q3 2011	Q4 2013	• Develop the system and transition it to maintenance

EVVET 3 - Current Plan Status