From 2011 to 2020, an increase of 48.8% in overall sales (mg/PCU) of antimicrobial VMPs was noted in Poland. Over the years, the two highest-selling classes were tetracyclines and penicillins. Sales of tetracyclines accounted for 36.2% of total sales in 2011, whereas in 2020 the figure was 24.1%. The corresponding figures for penicillins were 22.8% and 32.5%, indicating a shift in prescribing from tetracyclines to penicillins.

No sales of other quinolones were reported in 2020.

* The class ‘Others’ includes sales of the following sub-classes: Imidazole derivatives (metronidazole) and Other antibacterials (bacitracin, natamycin, novobiocin, rifaximin and spectinomycin). Of note is that some of the sales could be for non-food-producing animals.
In 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland developed a strategy to combat antimicrobial resistance. The implementation of the strategy involved five different parties covering different areas of responsibility, ranging from the prudent use of VMPs by veterinarians to conducting research on monitoring the rise of antimicrobial resistance.

To improve the system for collecting data on sales of veterinary medicines, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development initiated work on amending corresponding regulations in order to specify the scope and process for gathering sales details. From 2017, this resulted in increased quality of the data submitted.

Sales (mg/PCU) of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins increased from 2011 to 2020. In 2011, this subclass accounted for 0.07% of total sales, while in 2020, the figure was 0.2%. In 2020, sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins VMPs were 0.38 mg/PCU, while aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 0.16 mg/PCU.

From 2011 to 2020, an increase was observed in sales (mg/PCU) of fluoroquinolones. In 2011, the proportion of total sales for fluoroquinolones was 5.7%, and in 2020, the figure was 6.9%. In 2020, sales of fluoroquinolones were 12.92 mg/PCU, while aggregated sales for the 25 countries in that year were 2.21 mg/PCU.

Sales (mg/PCU) of other quinolones decreased between 2011 and 2019; in 2011, this subclass accounted for 0.06% of total sales, while in 2019, the figure was 0.0001%. In 2020, no sales of other quinolones were reported, while aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 0.16 mg/PCU.

Sales (mg/PCU) of polymyxins increased by 158% from 2011 to 2019; in 2011, this class accounted for 3.3% of total sales; in 2019, the figure was 5.7%. In 2020, sales decreased by 14.1% in comparison to the previous year, and polymyxins accounted for 4.9% of total sales. In the same year, sales of polymyxins were 9.12 mg/PCU, while aggregated sales for the 25 countries were 2.58 mg/PCU.