



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

1 15 December 2023
2 EMA/CVMP/248499/2007 – Rev.1
3 Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP)

4 **Guideline on the evaluation of the benefit-risk balance of**
5 **veterinary medicinal products**
6 **Draft**

First adoption of the guideline (EMA/CVMP/248499/2007)	April 2009
Draft revised guideline agreed by CVMP subgroup	November 2023
Adopted by the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP) for release for consultation	7 December 2023
Start of public consultation	15 December 2023
End of consultation (deadline for comments)	30 June 2024

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8 This guideline replaces the 'Recommendation on the evaluation of the benefit-risk balance of veterinary
9 medicinal products' (EMA/CVMP/248499/2007).

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11 Comments should be provided using this [template](#). The completed comments form should be sent to
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Keywords	<i>Benefit-risk, risk assessment, benefit</i>
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Guideline on the evaluation of the benefit-risk balance of veterinary medicinal products

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Executive summary

This guideline was developed to facilitate the methodology for benefit-risk evaluations of the different pre-and post-authorisation applications of veterinary medicinal products, to provide a systematic approach, hence improving the consistency and transparency of decisions taken at CVMP level.

In light of the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 and experience gained over the years, the CVMP has revised the guideline.

1. Introduction (background)

According to Article 4 (19) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (hereinafter the Regulation) "benefit-risk balance" means an evaluation of the positive effects of the veterinary medicinal product in relation to the following risks relating to the use of the product:

(a) any risk relating to the quality, safety and efficacy of the veterinary medicinal products as regards animal or human health;

(b) any risk of undesirable effects on the environment;

(c) any risk relating to the development of resistance.

The benefit-risk evaluation of a veterinary medicinal product is a complex process based on the intended use of each individual product in respect to its overall safety.

A positive benefit-risk balance must be demonstrated for a veterinary medicinal product to be granted a marketing authorisation and is subject to re-evaluation during the product life-cycle to ensure it remains positive, so that the marketing authorisation can be maintained.

In this guideline, important points are highlighted related to the preparation and assessment of initial marketing authorisation applications and subsequent applications. The points in this guideline have to be read in conjunction with the Regulation and its Annex II in which the scientific dossier requirements for different types of products and marketing authorisation applications are provided.

Recognising the complexity of weighing the various information related to benefits and risks stemming from the quality, safety and efficacy evaluation of the product, this guideline proposes a methodology aiming at improving the transparency and the robustness of the decision-making process.

This guideline has to be read in conjunction with the European Commission's Guidance to Applicants (currently under development). In addition, relevant guidance documents prepared by the CVMP and/or the VICH should be taken into account, as applicable.

2. Scope

The guideline is intended to provide details on the conduct of the benefit-risk evaluation, to give guidance on when and how to perform a benefit-risk evaluation, and to be a basis for the elaboration of all assessment documents that include a section on the evaluation of the benefit-risk balance. It is addressed to those performing a benefit-risk evaluation of veterinary medicinal products, which includes regulators and applicants or marketing authorisation holders of a veterinary medicinal product.

The principles of this guideline apply to all types of veterinary medicinal products (i.e. to products other than biological products, to biological products other than immunologicals, and to immunological products).

The principles of this guideline apply whenever a benefit-risk evaluation is required under the Regulation, e.g. in the context of a marketing authorisation or variation application, pharmacovigilance issue or on request of a national competent authority (NCA) or the Agency (Article 58(9) of the Regulation).

3. Legal basis

This guideline takes into account the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (including its Annex II) which provides the definition of benefit-risk balance, the scientific dossier requirements, criteria for refusing marketing authorisations and lays down the responsibilities of the marketing authorisation holders.

4. When to perform a benefit-risk evaluation

A benefit-risk evaluation is undertaken by competent authorities or the Agency before a new veterinary medicinal product is granted a marketing authorisation and throughout the life-cycle of authorised products, whenever new information is submitted or emerges that triggers a re-evaluation of the benefit-risk balance.

It is the responsibility of a marketing authorisation holder to provide data demonstrating that the benefit-risk balance remains positive, when required to do so by a competent authority or the Agency (Article 58(9) of the Regulation) or when new information emerges that might influence the assessment of the benefits and risks of the veterinary medicinal product concerned (Article 58(10)). The marketing authorisation holder is responsible to continuously evaluate the benefit-risk balance of the veterinary medicinal product and to take appropriate action when necessary, e.g. Articles 77(4) and 81(2).

4.1. Initial marketing authorisation application

4.1.1. Points to consider depending on the legal basis of the application

The amount and type of data to be provided in support of an application for a marketing authorisation vary depending on the legal basis of the marketing authorisation and the type of product. Dossier requirements can be found in the Regulation and its Annex II. Although the dossier requirements (level of evidence needed) for quality, safety and efficacy may vary according to the legal basis of the application or depending on the type of product, the principles underpinning the benefit-risk balance evaluation do not differ depending on the legal basis of the application, i.e. the benefits must always outweigh the risks, leading to a positive benefit-risk balance within the applicable context.

Where there are **minor** shortcomings in the data provided in support of an application (compared to the applicable dossier requirements), the benefit-risk balance may be considered positive, subject to the satisfactory completion of post-authorisation measures or studies to be agreed in advance with the applicant/marketing authorisation holder, and only when the product quality, safety and efficacy meet acceptable standards and if the identified risks are shown to not outweigh the expected benefit(s) after taking into account the risk mitigation measures.

For **limited market applications in accordance with Article 23**, the dossier should include a justification on the applicability of the provisions of Article 23 (limited market and benefit of availability outweighing the risks of the omission of certain data). During the marketing authorisation procedure, the applicant's justification will be assessed, and it will be confirmed whether the dossier submitted in support of the marketing authorisation application is appropriate for the application submitted in

accordance with Article 23. The benefit-risk balance evaluation and its principles are not different from applications under other legal bases, other than allowing for a customised set of data requirements in accordance with CVMP guidance for limited market products.

For **applications under exceptional circumstances** (Article 25), the applicant will have to justify why certain quality, safety or efficacy documentation usually required according to Annex II cannot be provided (reasonable evidence that the benefit of immediate availability on the market of the product, related to animal or public health, outweighs the risk linked to the fact that certain technical documentation cannot be provided by the applicant at the time of the evaluation and provided that there are exceptional circumstances related to animal or public health). The validity of the justification will be confirmed during the marketing authorisation procedure. The benefit-risk balance evaluation and its principles are not different from applications under other legal bases, other than allowing for a customised set of data requirements in accordance with CVMP guidance for applications under exceptional circumstances.

The benefit-risk balance of **generic products** (Article 18) should generally reflect that of the reference product. Where there are specific legal provisions in the Regulation (including Annex II) that foresee specific areas of assessment for generic products (i.e. quality data, bibliographic information on antimicrobial/antiparasitic resistance (where applicable), data on local residues and target animal tolerance at the administration site (if relevant), user safety risk assessment or, if applicable, the outcome of the environmental risk assessment), these aspects should be taken into account in the evaluation of the benefit-risk balance. It should be included in the outcome of that evaluation whether any difference in the benefit-risk balance compared to the reference product is a product-specific issue.

The benefit-risk balance of **hybrid products** (Article 19) should generally reflect that of the reference product apart from where there are differences compared to the reference product and where there are specific legal provisions (including Annex II) that foresee specific areas of assessment for hybrid products, e.g. pre-clinical/clinical data to cover differences with the reference product, risk of antimicrobial/antiparasitic resistance, comparability review for a biosimilar or demonstration of similarity between EU and non-EU reference product used for the conduct of any studies. It should be included in the outcome of that evaluation whether any difference in the benefit-risk balance compared to the reference product is a product-specific issue (due to hybrid-differences).

Without prejudice to the fact that, where the cross-referred product has been authorised prior to 1 October 2005, the applicant may be required to provide data on environmental aspects, the benefit-risk balance of products based on an **informed consent** application (Article 20), should reflect that of the cross-referred product.

In case of applications for **combination veterinary medicinal products** (Article 20), the need for and contribution of all active substances at the moment of treatment must be justified. The presentation of multiple active substances in a fixed combination product may present some specific risks (e.g. due to interactions between the active substances or cumulative toxicity, development of resistance). It is necessary to assess the potential clinical advantages of combination therapy (e.g. improvement of activity or broadening of the activity spectrum) against the use of monotherapies, in order to determine whether the product meets the requirements with respect to efficacy and safety. It should be justified that the benefits of the combination therapy outweigh its inherent potential risks such as addition or strengthening of adverse effects, and the fact that fixed combination medicinal products may not always be easily adjusted to the need of an individual animal.

4.1.2. Points to consider for certain types of products

A. Novel therapy veterinary medicinal products

According to the specific nature of a novel therapy product, as defined in Article 4(43) of the Regulation, its use may potentially be associated with specific risks. Risks inherent to the specific product and the risk factors contributing to those risks should be identified in a risk analysis that may cover the entire development of the product. Based on the evaluation of the information on the identified risks and risk factors, a profile of each individual risk associated with a specific product shall be established and factored into the benefit-risk evaluation. The adequacy of the applicant's risk management plan should also be considered within the benefit-risk evaluation.

B. Antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products

Regulation (EU) 2019/6 places increased emphasis on the assessment of risk arising from antimicrobial resistance. For antimicrobial products, the applicant is required to address the direct or indirect risks to public or animal health, as well as risk mitigation measures to limit antimicrobial resistance development. In this respect the CVMP's dedicated guidance on antimicrobial resistance risk assessment should be taken into account. It should be noted that consideration of the environment within the context of antimicrobial risk assessment refers to the environment's potential role in acting as a vehicle for spreading the risk of antimicrobial resistance to humans.

The acceptability of the risk level is, as always, finally weighed into the context of the overall benefit-risk balance for the product, taking into account any agreed risk mitigation measures.

C. Antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products

The risk of development of resistance against antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products is of increasing concern and reflected in the Regulation as a risk to be taken into consideration in the benefit-risk evaluation.

Where an application concerns an antiparasitic veterinary medicinal product, applicants are required to provide appropriate data/information in regard to the potential of development of resistance (if relevant for the type of procedure). This risk is generally assessed in regard to its potential impact on animal health, and data requirements as well as guidance on possible risk mitigation options are provided in Annex II to the Regulation and/or a number of guidance documents provided by the CVMP.

4.2. Variations

For all variations requiring assessment, where new/changed risks or new/changed benefits are identified, a benefit-risk evaluation by the competent authorities/the Agency is required in order to accept or reject the variation. Any new data provided in support of the variation will be assessed for their impact on the overall benefit-risk balance. Furthermore, any other relevant information identified during the procedure can be taken into account in the benefit-risk evaluation. The burden of proof that the benefit-risk balance of the veterinary medicinal product continues to be positive if the marketing authorisation is amended as per the variation application is on the applicant.

4.3. Pharmacovigilance

Safety information available at the time when the initial marketing authorisation was granted is relatively limited, as it is restricted to data on a limited population provided in the marketing authorisation application. Therefore, not all potential risks may have been identified. In the post-

authorisation phase, a review of the benefit-risk balance may be triggered by new data gathered during pharmacovigilance activities.

According to Article 77(4) of the Regulation marketing authorisation holders (MAHs) are responsible for the pharmacovigilance of their veterinary medicinal product(s), and the continuous monitoring of the benefit-risk balance of the authorised veterinary medicinal product is an essential obligation of the MAH. MAHs shall record, at least annually a conclusion on the benefit-risk balance in the Union pharmacovigilance database (Article 81(2)) and shall notify the competent authorities or the Agency where the outcome of the signal management process identifies a change to the benefit-risk balance or a new risk (Article 81(2)).

4.4. Union interest referrals

The assessment of a referral will address the benefit-risk balance of the veterinary medicinal product(s) that is (are) subject to the referral. The consideration of the benefit-risk balance will focus on the subject matter of the referral and specifically on issues that may change the benefit-risk balance or make risk mitigation measures, or amended risk mitigation measures, necessary. The outcome of the referral procedure may be, where duly justified, that the marketing authorisation(s) concerned are to be amended, suspended or revoked, or that temporary safety restrictions should be imposed.

5. Benefit-risk evaluation principles and methodology

The evaluation of the benefit-risk balance is a complex process as it generally includes multiple benefits and risks, as well as taking into account risk management options.

The benefit-risk evaluation should describe factually the observed effects and uncertainties, in terms of important benefits and risks, as well as their impact. The identified benefits and risks should be evaluated separately. The direct benefit(s) of the product must be clearly established for each target species and each indication. Each risk should be assessed taking into account all the elements present in the different parts of the dossier which should be accompanied, if appropriate, by proposals for risk mitigation measures. The aim is to objectively bring to light and critically discuss the benefits and risks described.

Finally, an overall conclusion should be drawn on the benefit-risk balance, recognising that zero risk does not exist and considering potential risk mitigation measures. The evaluation of the overall benefit-risk balance should clearly describe why the benefit-risk balance is considered as favourable (positive) or unfavourable (negative) explaining the reasoning leading to the conclusion. The outcome of the overall benefit-risk evaluation will be the basis of the scientific recommendations in the assessment and the regulatory decisions that follow it. Benefits related to economic considerations will not be taken into account in the evaluation of the benefit-risk balance as they are considered out of the scope, for example, comparative cost-effectiveness of a veterinary medicinal product.

5.1. Methodology

A structured approach for the benefit-risk evaluation should be followed in order to ensure that the reasoning leads to a clear conclusion. It should comprise the following elements:

- The conclusion of the benefit-risk evaluation should include an introduction summarising the main characteristics of the veterinary medicinal product and outlining the legal basis of the marketing authorisation application which forms the framework of the assessment.

- The direct benefits of the product (see section below) should be clearly described for each target species and each indication. Any additional benefits (see section below) should be identified separately. Information about the extent and importance of each benefit should be stated.
- The benefit-risk balance should take into account, in particular, dose-effect relationships if relevant, i.e. if higher doses give better therapeutic effects but also more frequent or severe adverse effects. A balance between the benefit(s) and the risks for the target animal can often be done directly, i.e. the efficacy and the tolerance might be directly weighed up in the target species taking into account different doses.
- The risk assessments should be performed for all relevant risks and information about each risk should be stated e.g. "adverse reactions related to treatment occurred in 25% of treated animals; this is a major factor...".
- For each risk, risk mitigation options should be considered, and the potential residual risk discussed.

The overall conclusions should describe on which basis the benefit-risk evaluation is considered as favourable or unfavourable, in relation to the dossier requirements for the application.

The use of qualitative and quantitative approaches to benefit-risk assessment have been considered. While the qualitative/structured method brings significant progress towards a more objective decision-making process, some (semi-)quantitative methods examined by the CVMP have not been found to be suitable due to difficulties to implement them and limited added value. In conclusion, the qualitative approach is deemed more fit for purpose at the current time.

5.2. Benefit assessment

It is important to distinguish between direct benefits which always impact the benefit-risk balance, versus additional benefits, which will not impact on the decision to reach a positive or negative benefit-risk balance but which may be relevant in other contexts, e.g. Article 40(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6 (see CVMP draft Reflection paper EMA/CVMP/64911/2021).

5.2.1. Direct benefits

Veterinary medicinal products are defined in Article 4(1) of the Regulation as any substance or combination of substances presented as having properties for treating or preventing disease in animals or which may be used in or administered to animals with a view to restoring, correcting or modifying physiological functions by exerting a pharmacological, immunological or metabolic action, to making a medical diagnosis or for euthanasia. Further guidance on the definition of a veterinary medicinal product is provided in the European Commission's Guidance to Applicants (currently under development). When considering the direct benefits of a veterinary medicinal product, those taken into account in the benefit-risk evaluation are linked to the proposed indications of the product, and generally the therapeutic or diagnostic benefits demonstrated in the treated animal. It also follows that the demonstration of possible additional benefits cannot override this primary requirement.

In specific and well-justified cases, it is acceptable that the main benefit of treatment is demonstrated in other animals than the treated animal, for example when passive immunity is transferred to offspring or when the risk for transmission of disease to surrounding animals or humans is reduced. For products used for zootechnical purposes (as defined in the European Commission's Guidance to Applicants), for diagnosis or for euthanasia, it is accepted that no direct benefit of treatment may be demonstrated in the treated animal.

Benefits to the environment (e.g. reduced emission of greenhouse gasses) or to human health, apart from risk of transmission of zoonotic infections, fall outside the remit of the assessment of veterinary medicines.

The relevance and acceptability of specified direct benefits will need to be evaluated in each case in view of the nature of the disease. For example, an indication associated with production parameters such as reduced growth retardation for a vaccine to be used in growing pigs may not be accepted as a sole direct benefit but would need to be associated with a benefit in prevention/reduction of infection or disease. Furthermore, deficiencies in the demonstration of efficacy (e.g. study deficiencies, lack of statistical support and/or questionable clinical relevance for the proposed claims, dose, target species/subpopulation) need to be considered in the evaluation of the demonstrated benefit.

An evaluation regarding the claimed benefits should be made on the basis of endpoints and outcomes from clinical GCP trials, laboratory studies or other studies/publications, as applicable, and taking into account existing guidance stating requirements for efficacy assessment (e.g. level of effect, statistical requirements).

Examples of benefits taken into account in the evaluation of the benefit-risk balance include the following:

- Disease prevention, clinical or subclinical disease treatment,
- Improvement of, or recovery from, the clinical condition,
- Increase of survival rate or life expectancy, in relation to a recognised pathological condition,
- Reduction of the risks of transmission of a disease to the treated animal and potentially to other animals,
- Reduction in growth retardation in relation to a recognised pathological condition,
- Offering a diagnostic tool,
- Control of a zoonotic disease in animals,
- Appropriate alteration of physiology or disease status to derive a desired benefit in relation to a recognised pathological condition or in the context of zootechnical purposes e.g. oestrus synchronisation.

5.2.2. Additional benefits

Additional benefits are benefits not directly linked to the main indication of the product. These can be general benefits for the animal, the veterinarian, the farmer, the user, or relate to particular properties of the product.

Additional benefits cannot be the pivotal benefit demonstrated in the application, and would generally only be considered in the overall assessment of the benefit-risk balance where the direct benefits are already adequately established i.e. the product must have shown a positive benefit-risk balance based on the direct therapeutic benefits before additional benefits would be acknowledged.

Examples of additional benefits include the following:

- Facilitated animal handling (e.g. long acting substance requiring fewer administrations, or a fixed combination might reduce the total number of tablets to be given),
- Easier administration (leading to e.g. improved owner compliance),
- Improved palatability,

- Possibility to Differentiate Vaccinated from Diseased Animals (DIVA) for vaccines,
- Better quality of life for the treated animal insofar as this is relevant in relation to the recognised pathological condition reflected in the primary indication.

Additional benefits should be supported by appropriate information or data. Theoretical arguments will generally not be sufficient to justify e.g. palatability or improvement of quality of life, and data from studies using the product evaluating the specific additional benefit may be needed for the benefit to be included in the product information.

Additional benefits are not included in section 3.2 of the SPC (indications for use¹) but could be addressed in other sections describing the effects of the product, if relevant, if adequately supported in relation to the claimed indication(s) of the product, and, where applicable, in line with the CVMP Question and answer document on the information contained within section 5.1 of the SPC on pharmacodynamic properties for pharmaceutical products (EMA/CVMP/757903/2016).

5.3. Risk assessment

Risks relating to the use of the product are defined in the Regulation as 'any risk relating to the quality, safety and efficacy of the veterinary medicinal product as regards animal or human health, any risk of undesirable effects on the environment and any risk relating to the development of resistance'. For a specific veterinary medicinal product, each kind of risk should be assessed carefully in relation to the different part of the dossier (quality, safety, environmental safety, residues, resistance development, efficacy) in line with the existing guidelines. The level of risk that is considered acceptable may vary, depending on intended use and on the possibility to identify and implement risk mitigation measures (which may include mentioning precautions and contraindications in the product information). When considering risks other than to the target animal (i.e. risks for the consumer, user, environment and development of resistance), the benefit(s) and risks cannot be directly compared. These different risks should be considered individually, and a conclusion should be reached in the benefit-risk evaluation whether or not these risks are overall acceptable in relation to the benefits, taking into account possible risk mitigation measures.

For the **quality** part, the risk assessment should consider whether the product is of appropriate quality throughout the life cycle of the product so as not to alter the conclusions made on safety and efficacy. The quality hazards that may have consequences in terms of safety or efficacy which may be assessed include, for example, degradation products or non-compatibility with other products, interaction between the finished product and the primary packaging, TSE risk, microbial contamination or extraneous agents, or the shelf-life of the product.

For the **safety** part, separate risk assessments are performed with regards to user safety, safety for the consumer, the environment and target animal safety. For these main risk assessments, guidelines are available.

In the case of **consumer safety**, the risk assessment has largely already been considered by the establishment of maximum residue limits (MRLs). In the marketing authorisation procedure, the assessment is limited to the establishment of the withdrawal period or other risk mitigation measures specific for the veterinary medicinal product.

For the **environment**, the environmental risk assessment concludes on the risks associated to the use of the veterinary medicinal product in the proposed conditions and, for food producing species, on any toxic, bioaccumulative or persistent properties of the active substance. When a risk is identified for a certain taxonomic level it should be assumed that the whole environmental compartment represented

¹ SPC section 3.2 in QRD template v.9; SPC section 4.2 in QRD template v.8.

365 is at risk. Regulation (EU) 2019/6 introduces new requirements with regard to products that meet the
366 criteria for being considered (very) persistent, (very) bioaccumulative and toxic. It should be noted
367 that the framework for environmental risk assessment of antimicrobials is not widened because there
368 is no specific requirement for assessment of the risk of antimicrobial resistance to the environment
369 (i.e. to ecosystems).

370 As regards **risk relating to the development of resistance**, for antiparasitics, Annex II has data
371 requirements for development of resistance and related risk in animals (not humans), as well as
372 measures to limit resistance in clinically relevant organisms. For antimicrobials (and specifically
373 antibiotics), the data requirements are for development of resistance and related risk in humans and
374 for development of resistance and related risk in animals (although cross-reference between both can
375 be made where relevant), as well as measures to limit resistance development where necessary.

376 Nevertheless, for both antimicrobials and antiparasitics, a negative benefit-risk balance is justified
377 where the risk of resistance to public health outweighs the benefits of the veterinary medicinal product
378 to animal health. For antiparasitics, this situation is not common but could arise where a substance or
379 class of substance is used to treat the same type of parasite in animals and humans (e.g.
380 benzimidazoles / *Ascaris*), or where insufficient efficacy against an animal parasite could prevent
381 adequate treatment of a zoonotic disease (e.g. *Echinococcus*) and thereby increase the risk of
382 transmission in humans.

383 Regarding **target animal safety**, in studies conducted in the target species, secondary effects
384 including adverse events in the target species can be identified. Such effects are relevant to the
385 assessment of the target animal safety. A conclusion should be included on how the specific tolerance
386 profile of the product fits into the larger context of the use of the product and the benefits of such use.

387 In addition, there may be **special risks** associated with a specific veterinary medicinal product. Each
388 risk should be assessed taking into account all the elements present in the different parts of the
389 scientific dossier. Specific risks, according to the nature of the product include (examples):

- 390 • Unintended spread of a vaccine strain;
- 391 • Reversion to virulence of a vaccine strain;
- 392 • Zoonotic potential:
 - 393 – the risk to humans from the use of live vaccine strains,
 - 394 – the risk of lack of efficacy in the target animals,
- 395 • DNA vaccines: potential risk of migration of the DNA to gonadal tissues and potential DNA transfer
396 into germ line cells of vaccinated male and female animals and thus potential transmission to
397 offspring;
- 398 • GMOs: potential direct and indirect, immediate or delayed adverse effects of the GMO on human
399 health and the environment (including plants and animals);
- 400 • Specific risks of novel therapies (see section V.1. of Annex II to the Regulation);
- 401 • Unintended interactions or differences in the pharmacokinetic properties between the active
402 substances in fixed combination products;
- 403 • Risk of potential superfluous administration and inappropriate use of fixed combination products
404 (especially with regard to antiparasitics).

5.4. Risk mitigation measures²

For each relevant risk, an assessment should be provided which should be accompanied, if appropriate, by proposals for risk mitigation measures to address these risks. The summary of product characteristics (SPC) and the product literature (labelling and package leaflet) constitute an essential tool for this purpose. For example, an environmental risk may be identified if the product is used more than twice per year in the same chicken house and manure is spread on grassland. This may be addressed by including an explanation in the SPC on the limitation of use. For antimicrobial or antiparasitic products, appropriate prudent use warnings may be applied in the case of identified risks for the development of resistance.

When risk mitigation measures are proposed by the applicant or required by the competent authority, care should be taken to ensure that they are realistic and practicable.

If relevant, certain conditions or restrictions on the marketing authorisation might be applied.

5.5. Evaluation of the overall benefit-risk balance

After the analysis of benefits and risks, a clear discussion and conclusion should be written. The evaluation of the benefit-risk balance should follow the benefit-risk evaluation principles (see section 5). It is not the intention of this section to repeat every benefit and risk. The aim is to discuss the benefits and risks and to explain the reasoning leading to the overall conclusion. Particular attention should be paid to the applicability and practicality of the risk mitigation measures proposed.

When specific conditions for authorisation, such as post-authorisation studies, have been included for a marketing authorisation, this should be stated and justified.

A positive benefit-risk balance can be concluded when the benefits of the product have been sufficiently substantiated and when the risks are considered as acceptable in relation to the proven benefits, taking into account any proposed measures to mitigate the risks. If applicable, and only in the case of an already positive benefit-risk balance, additional benefits may be mentioned at this stage.

² In this document, the terms 'risk management' and 'risk mitigation' measures are used interchangeably.

References

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- CVMP draft Reflection paper on the application of Article 40(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/6: potential criteria to support the demonstration of a reduction in the antimicrobial or antiparasitic resistance, or an improvement of the benefit-risk balance (EMA/CVMP/64911/2021).
- CVMP Guideline for the demonstration of efficacy for veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobial substances (EMA/CVMP/627/2001-Rev.1).
- CVMP Guideline on data requirements for authorisation of immunological veterinary medicinal products in exceptional circumstances (EMA/CVMP/IWP/251947/2021).
- CVMP Guideline on Fixed Combination Pharmaceutical Products (EMA/CVMP/83804/2005-Rev1).
- CVMP Guideline on the summary of product characteristics (SPC) for veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobial substances (EMA/CVMP/383441/2005-Rev.1).
- CVMP Question and answer document on the information contained within section 5.1 of the SPC on pharmacodynamic properties for pharmaceutical products (EMA/CVMP/757903/2016).
- CVMP Reflection paper on classification of a product as intended for a limited market according to Article 4(29) and/or eligibility for authorisation according to Article 23 (Applications for limited markets; EMA/CVMP/235292/2020).
- CVMP Reflection Paper on antimicrobial resistance in the environment: Considerations for current and future risk assessment of veterinary medicinal products (EMA/CVMP/ERA/632109/2014).
- CVMP Reflection paper on the risk of antimicrobial resistance transfer from companion animals (EMA/CVMP/AWP/401740/2013).
- EMA's (AMEG) advice to the Commission (EMA/381884/2014).
- Preliminary risk profiling for new antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products (EMA/CVMP/CHMP/682199/2017).
- European Commission: Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/805 of 8 March 2021 amending Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- European Commission: Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on veterinary medicinal products and repealing Directive 2001/82/EC.
- European Commission: Guidance to Applicants.