News:

VDD Establishes an Expert Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance Risk Assessment

As part of Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) efforts to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) associated with the use of antimicrobial agents in food-producing animals, a new Expert Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance Risk Assessment has been established. This Committee will provide on-going and timely expert advice to VDD on assessment of the AMR risks attributable to new and existing antimicrobial agents. The final list of members of this Committee will soon be posted on VDD’s Web site as the Committee’s first meeting is being planned for spring 2005.

Release of Second CIPARS Annual Report

The second annual report of the Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) is to be released and posted on the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Web site in early 2005.

CIPARS is a nationally integrated AMR surveillance program developed by Health Canada in collaboration with federal and provincial partners. One of the key objectives of CIPARS is to monitor trends in the development of AMR in the food chain. CIPARS first annual report which was released in early 2004 summarized data collected during 2002 on AMR from human and animal samples.

Although the data reported in this second annual report does not represent the full spectrum of usage and access across Canada (samples were collected from Ontario and Quebec), it provides an indirect measure of the potential human exposure to AMR from the consumption of animal-derived products. This report builds on the baseline data established during the first year’s report to support the development of policies and guidelines for the prudent use of antimicrobials in Canada. It also highlights the link between human and animal isolates as it relates to AMR.

US-Canada Bilateral Meeting on Monitoring Antimicrobial Use and Resistance

Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada will be hosting a bilateral meeting on February 8-9, 2005, with representatives of the US Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss common interests in areas such as: international discussions on antimicrobial use monitoring; regulatory issues related to the use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals; and collaboration on the development of a common use estimation model.
Agriculture’s Role in Managing Antimicrobial Resistance Conference 2005
The Road to Prudent Use

Surveillance ◆ Research ◆ Regulation ◆ Prudent Use

Agriculture’s Role in Managing Antimicrobial Resistance: The Road to Prudent Use is scheduled to take place on October 23 - 26, 2005, at the Toronto Airport Marriot Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. The conference is being presented by a national steering committee composed of federal and provincial governments, industry and academic organizations across Canada.

Antimicrobial resistance in agricultural production systems can impact animal welfare, public health, food safety and environmental health. The prudent use of antimicrobials is an important tool for managing AMR risks. Many factors can play a role in antimicrobial use decision-making including drug availability, availability of alternatives, scientific evidence, policies, animal, human and environmental health impacts, food safety and economics.

This conference, a follow-up to the 1999 conference, Agriculture’s Role in Managing Antimicrobial Resistance, will feature national and international experts on various aspects of AMR in agriculture and will:

• Provide a forum to review where we were, where we are and explore where we need to be in tackling AMR in Canada
• Review progress on surveillance and identify new opportunities
• Present current research and thinking on AMR
• Review progress on the environmental aspects of AMR
• Present regulatory initiatives on AMR
• Discuss prudent use efforts and initiatives in chicken, turkey, pig, beef, dairy and veal production
• Formulate where the Canadian road to prudent use will lead over the next 5 years

This conference is designed for:

• Users of antimicrobials: agricultural producers, veterinarians, animal nutritionists, and members of the animal health industry and the medical community,
• Policy-makers: representatives of commodity groups, veterinary associations, regulatory agencies, processors, and retailers,
• Others with interest in, or impact on AMR and drug use: researchers, academia, agricultural extension staff, consultants and interested members of the public.

Registration information and further details are available on the conference Web site at: http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/livestock/vet/pubhealth.html

Sponsors of this Conference include:
Current Status

Guidelines for Assessing the Microbiological Safety of Veterinary New Drug Submissions
The deadline for consultation on the draft NDS Guideline was April 1, 2004. Since then, VDD has been collating comments, consulting with industry groups and is in the process of revising the draft Guidelines. The antimicrobial drug categorization section of the Requirements for the Microbiological Safety Studies is currently undergoing internal and external consultations. Once finalized, this document will form part of the Guidance for Industry on Preparation of Veterinary New Drug Submissions.

Out and About
On October 1, 2004, VDD representatives Kathy Dobbin, Director, Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Relations, and Dr. Lateef Adewoye, VDD Senior Policy Advisor on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) consulted with the Health Products and Food Branch's Public Advisory Committee (PAC) on the issue of AMR. The purpose of this consultation was to seek advice on how to move forward with public awareness activities that communicate information about the impact of AMR and the potential risk to human and animal health in a Canadian public health context. VDD's presentation was well received by PAC. There were a number of action items regarding public education suggested during the breakout session that followed the presentation. These actions will not only enable the Directorate to move forward on the AMR issue, they will also benefit other VDD projects.

On October 3 - 5, 2004, Dr. Lateef Adewoye delivered a presentation on Antimicrobial Resistance at the Annual Federal Food Safety and Nutrition Research Meeting (FFSNR) in Ottawa. On September 28 - 29, 2004, Dr. Adewoye also provided a keynote address at the Society for Risk Analysis Symposium on Risk Assessment and Antimicrobial Resistance: Past Present and Future held in Washington, DC. At this symposium, Dr. Adewoye spoke about the use of risk assessment in developing AMR policies. The symposium featured invited speakers from international organizations, including: the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Cox Associates (US), the International Federation on Animal Health, the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) and Vose Consulting (France).

On June 13 - 17, 2004, Dr. Lateef Adewoye presented a keynote address to the Second International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine (AAVM), which took place in Ottawa, Canada. Following the meeting, Dr. Arnie Leon, AMR expert at the Australian
Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), paid a visit to VDD where information on a variety of topics was shared and discussed.

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