



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

WOAH *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE TECHNICAL REFERENCE DOCUMENT LISTING ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS OF VETERINARY IMPORTANCE FOR BOVINE ANIMALS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the WOA *ad hoc* Group (hereafter, referred as the 'Group') on the Technical Reference Document for Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance for bovine animals (hereafter, the 'Technical Reference Document') is to develop a list of authorised antimicrobial agents used in bovine animals (*Bos indicus* and *Bos taurus*) raised as livestock in commercial production systems, with inclusion of domestic water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) when relevant due to its importance in some geographical regions.

This list will be complementary and annexed to the WOA *ad hoc* List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance (hereafter, the 'List') and will be based on the latest information available for this species.

Background

To protect the efficacy of antimicrobial agents for future generations, participants of the 'Joint FAO/OIE/WHO Expert Workshops on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance' that took place in 2003 (Geneva, Switzerland¹), and in 2004 (Oslo, Norway²), recommended that both the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develop lists of critically important antimicrobials for humans and animals respectively. It was envisaged that the interface of the two lists would enable reflexion of risk management options, allowing an appropriate balance between animal health and public health considerations.

The [List](#) was adopted by the OIE International Committee at its 75th General Session in May 2007 ([Resolution No. XXVIII](#)). The List was further updated and adopted in May 2013, May 2015 and May 2018 by WOA *ad hoc* World Assembly of Delegates. The subdivision of the List by animal species follows recommendations proposed during the 2nd 'OIE Global Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials' in 2018 (Marrakesh, Morocco), and of the previous work conducted by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. This task was delegated to the WOA *ad hoc* Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. The first species-specific list was developed for the antimicrobial agents used in poultry. The methodology used for this list was subsequently adapted and applied to other species: Aquatic Animals and Swine.

Objectives

The objective of the Technical Reference Document is to provide relevant information on antimicrobial agents used in bovine animals that can contribute to the development and update of national treatment guidelines, advice on prevention and best practice management, risk management, and risk prioritization to minimize and contain AMR.

The document shall acknowledge that the licensing, availability and off-label use of antimicrobial agents authorised for veterinary medical use in bovine animals vary between regions and therefore the general information shall consider the local context. The document is not intended to serve as a treatment guideline.

¹ <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/68883>

² <https://www.fao.org/3/au630e/au630e.pdf>

Actions

The Group shall:

- undertake a rapid review of the evidence to prepare a preliminary table of important bacterial pathogens and diseases these pathogens cause, for which treatment, prevention and control involve use of antimicrobial agents in bovine animals;
- collate the information on antimicrobial classes and agents used in bovine animals in an Excel spreadsheet template. An antimicrobial agent is classified as 'used' for bovine animals (i.e., *Bos indicus*, *B. taurus* and *Bubalus bubalis*) if authorised for veterinary medical use in any of these species in at least one country.
- include comments for each of the antimicrobial classes on its perceived importance for the treatment of specific infections or whether they are the sole or one of the few therapeutic options.
- submit the draft deliverables for feedback to:
 - experts in different areas of expertise in bovine health management identified through WOAHA Collaborating Centres, the Working Group members and WOAHA networks representing geographical regions with sizeable bovine populations kept as livestock; and
 - international non-governmental animal health organisations with whom the WOAHA has established a cooperation agreement.
- consider experts feedback received to refine the Document.

Considerations

Consider:

- relevant published scientific textbooks and reviews of infectious diseases in bovine animals;
- electronic databases and websites of regional and national competent authorities listing antimicrobials authorised for the named species in countries;
- existing specific treatment guidelines, formularies and bovine-related recommendations from international and national veterinary bodies and organisations;
- existing marketing authorisations of veterinary products containing antimicrobial agents for the relevant species;
- expert advice.

Acknowledge:

- that no categorisation of antimicrobial classes, sub-classes or agents according to its importance for veterinary medicine will be conducted by the Group at this point.

Prerequisites

The Group members should:

- sign the WOAHA Undertaking on Confidentiality of information;
- complete the Declaration of Interest Form;
- agree on the appointment of the chair and rapporteur of the meeting;
- understand that an initial kick-off meeting will take place in Paris at WOAHA headquarters. Subsequent electronic meetings will be organised to progress the work until the Technical Reference document is finalised and endorsed by the Working Group.
- understand that the membership of the Group may be retained to ensure continuity of the work.

Deliverables

1. A table that describes the classes of antimicrobials with annexes that describe the relevant pathogens/diseases in bovine animals and the use pattern, as follows:
 - Main table, based on the List that presents:
 - Antimicrobial class and sub-class
 - Antimicrobial agent

- Comments and other considerations on the importance of antimicrobial class for the treatment of specific diseases.
- Annex 1: List of major pathogens and diseases affecting bovine animals;
- Annex 2: List of antimicrobial classes used to treat infections listed in annex 1.
- 2. Explanatory text to support the table acknowledging variations in-between countries:
 - availability of data;
 - distribution of bovine animal populations kept as livestock;
 - distribution of diseases with respect to the need for different antimicrobial classes;
 - differences in types of production systems, environmental and animal husbandry practices;
 - access to different antimicrobial agents classes, vaccines, alternatives to antimicrobials and diagnostic tools.

Timelines

The *ad hoc* Group will draft its report and a draft document by 30 September 2023 for the Working Group's consideration at its autumn 2023 meeting.