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FDA regulation in regard to judicious use of antibiotics in food-producing animals

U.S. Food and Drug Administration on 2nd June 2015 announced the final rule related to Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) to promote the judicious use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. This rule will state the use of antimicrobials drugs under veterinary supervision so that they are used only for the purpose of assuring animal health. The VFD final rule states the process for authorized use of VFD drugs (intended for use in or on animal feed that require the supervision of a licensed veterinarian) and provides veterinarians in all states the manner for authorized use of medically important antimicrobials in feed when needed for specific animal health purposes.

The final rule of VFD requires veterinarians to issue all VFDs within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) and must state the key elements within the meaning of VCPR. Those key elements should include the veterinarian engage with the client (i.e., animal producer or caretaker) to assume responsibility for making clinical judgments about patient (i.e., animal) health, have sufficient knowledge of the animal by conducting examinations and/or visits to the facility where the animal is managed, and provide for any necessary follow-up evaluation or care. The veterinarians are required to follow state-defined VCPR requirements as laid down by the final rule and in states where the FDA determines that no applicable or appropriate state VCPR requirements exist; veterinarians will need to issue VFDs in accordance with the VCPR requirements as defined/stated by the federal. All veterinarians will need to adhere to a VCPR that includes the key elements in the final rule.

As per deputy commissioner for foods “The actions the FDA has taken to date represent important steps toward a fundamental change in how antimicrobials can be legally used in food-producing animals, The VFD final rule takes another important step by facilitating veterinary oversight in a way that allows for the flexibility needed to accommodate the diversity of circumstances that veterinarians encounter, while ensuring such oversight is conducted in accordance with nationally consistent principles.”In December 2013, a guidance document was published by the agency, which calls on animal drug manufacturers of approved medically important antimicrobials that are put into water or feed of food-producing animals to voluntarily stop labeling them as drugs that can be used to promote animal growth and change the labeling of their products for the remaining uses to require veterinary oversight of these drugs when they are used for therapeutic purposes. All of the affected makers of these drugs have committed in writing to participate in the strategy.

The FDA, Department of Health and Human Services within United States, endeavors toward protecting the public health by providing the safety, effectiveness, security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency is also responsible for the safety and security of nation’s food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation, and for

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