

Categorization of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Veterinary Antibiotics by Importance in Human Medicine

Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Directorate has categorized antimicrobials based on their importance in human medicine¹. The table below identifies the antimicrobial classes with veterinary antibiotic products. If a class has veterinary antibiotic products, the antibiotics available over-the-counter and by prescription are listed.

Table. Categorization of Prescription and Non-prescription Veterinary Antibiotics by Importance in Human Medicine

Health Canada category of importance in human medicine		Antimicrobial class	Veterinary Antibiotics	
			Over-the-Counter	Prescription
I	Very High Importance	Carbapenems		
		Cephalosporins - 3rd and 4th generations		ceftiofur, cefpodoxime, cefovecin
		Fluoroquinolones		enrofloxacin, danofloxacin, difloxacin, orbifloxacin, marbofloxacin
		Glycopeptides		
		Glycylcyclines		
		Ketolides		
		Lipopeptides		
		Monobactams		
		Nitroimidazoles (metronidazole)		
		Oxazolidinones		
		Penicillin-β-lactamase inhibitor combinations		amoxicillin & clavulanic acid
		Polymyxins (colistin)		polymyxin B ^a
		Therapeutic agents for tuberculosis (e.g. ethambutol, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, and rifampin)		
II	High Importance	Aminoglycosides (except topical agents)		amikacin, apramycin, dihydrostreptomycin, gentamicin, neomycin, streptomycin
		Cephalosporins - 1st and 2nd generations		cefadroxil, cephalexin, cephapirin
		Fusidic acid		fusidic acid
		Lincosamides		clindamycin, lincomycin, pirlimycin
		Macrolides		erythromycin, gamithromycin, tildipirosin, tilmicosin, tulathromycin, tylosin, tylvalosin
		Penicillins		amoxicillin, ampicillin, cloxacillin, penicillin G
		Quinolones (except fluoroquinolones)		
		Streptogramins		virginiamycin
		Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole		trimethoprim, ormetoprim, sulfonamides
III	Medium Importance	Aminocyclitols		spectinomycin
		Aminoglycosides (topical agents)		neomycin
		Bacitracins		bacitracin
		Coumarin ^b		novobiocin
		Fosfomycin		
		Nitrofurans	nitrofurazone	nitrofurantoin
		Phenicol		chloramphenicol, florfenicol
		Pleuromutilins ^b		tiamulin
		Sulfonamides		variety of sulfonamides
		Tetracyclines		chlortetracycline, doxycycline, oxytetracycline, tetracycline
		Trimethoprim		
IV	Low Importance	Flavophospholipols	bambermycin	
		Ionophores	lasalocid, maduramicin, monensin, narasin, salinomycin	

^a Topical and intramammary products.

^b Antimicrobial class not included in Health Canada's categorization. Categorization based on personal communication with Health Canada.

¹ <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cipars-picra/2008/6-eng.php#Cat>