



## Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV)

### Position Statement

#### Use of Drugs without a Drug Identification Number (DIN)

Considering that:

- Canada enjoys an ample supply of high quality, safe, wholesome food products from its veal, beef and dairy industries and must continue to focus on these areas to protect domestic and international markets.
- Current quality initiatives in both the beef and dairy sectors focus on protocols and procedures to ensure the safety of food products produced. Paramount in these quality initiatives is the proper label use of approved animal health products. Extra-label use is only permitted under prescription by a licensed veterinarian with a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.
- Canadian bovine veterinarians are in the best position to understand and prescribe those products approved for use in Canada and are being asked and trusted by clients and the public to take responsibility for animal health products used in food-producing animals.
- Health Canada recently classified the antimicrobials into four classes based on their importance to human medicine.
- CVMA's Decision Cascade supports the use of drugs at the level of least risk to the patient and public safety before moving to the next level.
- CABV/ACVB recently supported the initiative by the CVMA and its collaborators to produce a tool/platform that will give national unity to the oversight and decision-support needs related to prudent antimicrobial usage, with applications for usage monitoring, and antibiotic resistance surveillance.
- CABV/ACVB has expressed written support for the initiatives and recommendations by the NFAHW Council with respect to the three pillars of the Federal Framework for Action on antimicrobial resistance and use.
- Recent Regulations Amending the Food and Drug Regulations regarding API's, own use importation of prescription veterinary drugs, recording of sales volume information by species, and introduction of an alternative pathway for manufactures to legally import and sell certain low risk veterinary drugs, known as veterinary health products could reduce the use of antimicrobials.

The CABV/ACVB does not support the use of a veterinary product that does not have Drug Identification Number when a similar product of comparable efficacy with a DIN is available. Products without DIN number have not been approved and licensed by Health Canada's Veterinary Drugs Directorate for human and animal safety or product efficacy. Canadians consuming animal products treated with such drugs may unknowingly be assuming additional risks to their health and well-being. Cost advantages are not a sufficient reason to justify the importation and use of unapproved veterinary drugs in food-producing animals.

To support responsible use of medications, giving due consideration to both animal and public health, CABV/ACVB wishes to encourage veterinarians to follow the CVMA Decision Cascade and consider the four classes of antimicrobials outlined by Health Canada when prescribing medications for their patients.