

Questions raised on Antibiotics – July 2013

Antibiotics Health

15th July 2013



Fiona Bruce (Congleton, Conservative)

To ask the **Secretary of State** for Health with reference to the answer of 25 April 2013, *Official Report*, column 1106W, on **antibiotics**, when the five-year antimicrobial strategy and action plan will be published; what assessment he has made of the findings reported in *Science Transitional Medicine* 2013, Vol. 5, Issue 192, on the effects of excessive or chronic use of **antibiotics** on those with mitochondrial disease; and whether concurrent use of N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine with **antibiotic** treatment is authorised by the **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence** for those with mitochondrial disease.



Anna Soubry (Broxtowe, Conservative)

The Five Year Antimicrobial Strategy will be published later this summer. The findings reported in *Science Transitional Medicine* have been brought to the attention of the **NHS England's** Rare Mitochondrial Disorders Service, which aims to provide clinical and laboratory based diagnosis, advice and support to individuals and families. The **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence** has not issued guidance to the national health service on the use of N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine for the treatment of mitochondrial disease.

Agriculture: Antibiotics Environment Food and Rural Affairs

12th July 2012



Glyn Davies (Montgomeryshire, Conservative)

To ask the **Secretary of State** for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department issues to farmers relating to the prophylactic use of **antibiotics** in (a) poultry farming and (b) all other types of farming.



David Heath (Somerton and Frome, Liberal Democrat)

DEFRA, through the **Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)**, is working closely with the veterinary profession to continue to raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance in order that veterinarians are fully informed to make responsible decisions when prescribing antimicrobials.

All veterinary medicines, including those containing **antibiotics**, require authorisation before they may be marketed or administered to animals. As part of the authorisation process a **Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC)** document is agreed for each product, which contains detailed information on how to use the medicinal product safely and effectively. Guidelines on the content of SPCs for antimicrobial products have been issued by the European Medicines Agency Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Product, (CVMP), which include the requirement to provide specific warnings regarding responsible use, in order to minimise the development of resistance. This information is required to be included in the literature or packaging of each medicine, so it is immediately available to both vets and animal keepers at point of use.

The VMD has produced an information leaflet for veterinary surgeons on **antibiotic** resistance and responsible use of antimicrobials. The VMD does not provide detailed **antibiotic** prescribing guidance, since it considers that relevant experts in the veterinary profession are best placed to design species specific guidelines.

The VMD works closely with the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture alliance (RUMA), which has formulated comprehensive guidelines for the responsible use of antimicrobials in the various livestock production sectors, including poultry. RUMA has also published a position statement, noting that preventative use of **antibiotics** must not be applied systematically or routinely.

The **British Veterinary Association** has produced a poster for veterinary surgeons which clearly summarises the key overall responsible use messages, including the need to use preventative approaches to reduce disease, and the requirement to minimise prophylactic use of **antibiotics**.