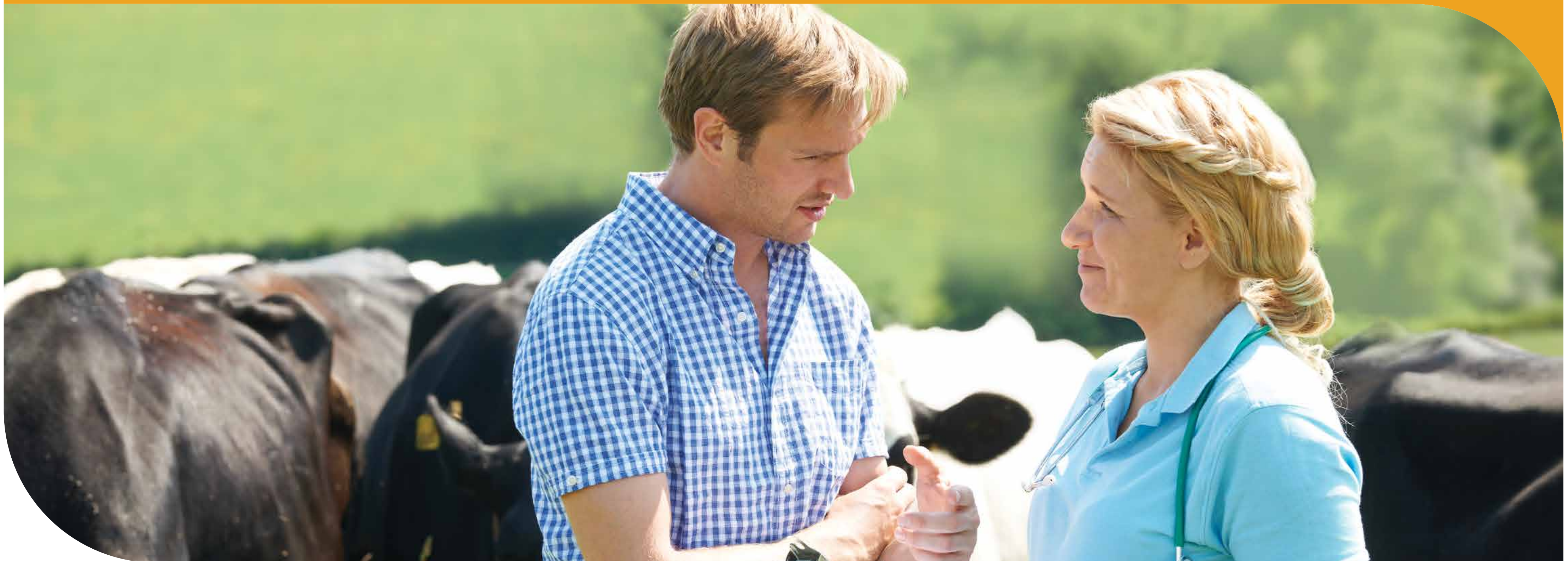


Change Is Here, And So Are We

Effective Dec. 1, 2018, Health Canada regulations will require a prescription for the purchase of all medically important antimicrobials.



How do I get a prescription?

Veterinarians can only write prescriptions when a valid **veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR)** exists.

Once your VCPR has been established, your veterinarian must determine the medical need for each prescription, document it in the medical record, and be available for follow-up.

What is a VCPR, and how do I know if I have one?

A valid VCPR exists when the following criteria are met:

Responsibility

The veterinarian has assumed responsibility for making clinical assessments and recommendations for the health of your animals.

Knowledge

The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animals on which to base the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of the animals' medical condition.

Trust

The client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's recommendations and prescriptions.

Communication

The veterinarian is available or has arranged for follow-up evaluation, especially in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

Why all the changes?

The Threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is Real

Every dose of antimicrobials potentially contributes to the development of AMR, but this potential can be minimized with effective oversight and stewardship. Without responsible usage, we stand to lose the benefits of all antimicrobials.

Canada's Role in a Global Initiative

The World Health Organization has declared AMR to be a serious threat to international health, impacting all sectors and societies. Health Canada has instituted regulations in concert with global initiatives to monitor and control antimicrobial usage.

Shared Stewardship

Remember that a relationship with your veterinarian is a shared responsibility that's founded through communication and collaboration. Your veterinarian is trained and knowledgeable in the safe and appropriate use of antimicrobials in animals and will avoid prescribing unnecessarily. Adhere to your veterinarian's recommendations and anticipate a post-treatment follow-up.



Talk to your veterinarian to learn more about the VCPR, or visit:
albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/VCPR