

VETERINARY MEDICINES DISTRIBUTION

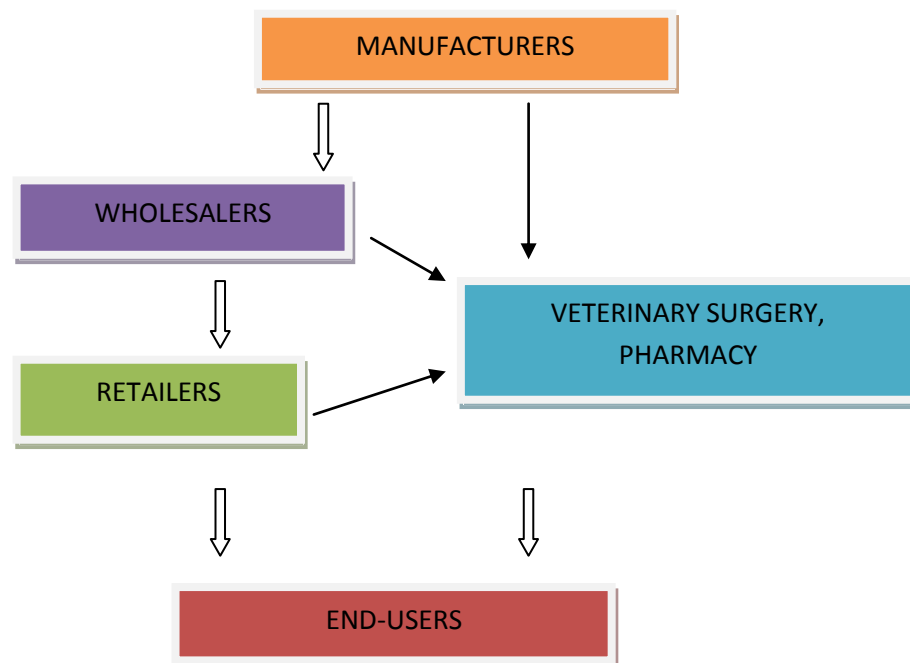
Category of veterinary drugs

Any veterinary drug approved by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ) is classified into one of 3 categories:

1. **Household Remedy (HR)** – These are drugs which can be sold in supermarket and general dealers.
2. **Veterinary Medicines General Dealer (VMGD)** – These are drugs which can be sold by licensed general dealers
3. **Prescription Products (PP)** – These products are sold by authorised persons (medical practitioner, dental practitioner, pharmacist or veterinary surgeon) who keep in their possession. Alternatively, they can be kept by any person in the employ and acting under the personal supervision of an authorised person in so far as is necessary in the execution of his duties. An example of a PP drug is Penicillin. Another classification of a PP drug is a dangerous drug, which can be stored under lock and key by any person who is authorized or licensed in terms of the Dangerous Drugs Act. An example of that is Etophine chloride.

Supply chain of drugs

The general chain of drug supply from manufacturer to end user is as follows;



Manufacturer

Supply of drugs begins with the manufacturer, whose premises should be first inspected for compliance for good manufacturing practices (cGMP) by the MCAZ. Products are then

registered with the MCAZ where quality and efficacy is reviewed through documentation review, product analysis in the laboratory and sometimes clinical trials.

Wholesaler

A wholesaler should have a wholesale permit, and the organization should have a resident pharmacist, pharmacy technician or veterinary surgeon for them to sell the products. The premise should comply with MCAZ Good Wholesaling Guidelines. Veterinary wholesales supply pharmacies, veterinary surgeries and VMGDs.

Storage areas of manufacturers and wholesalers should be of sufficient capacity to allow the orderly storage of bulk and finished products, products in quarantine, and released, rejected, returned or recalled products.

Veterinary medicine retailer

At retailer level, VMGD and HR products can be sold.

Veterinary surgeries and pharmacies

Pharmacies and veterinary surgeries can store the 3 categories of veterinary drugs. Prescription products can be dispensed upon producing a valid prescription.

All of these premises should also possess a Municipal license issued in terms of the Shop Licences Act.

Authorized handlers of veterinary medicines

Registered pharmacists and veterinary surgeons are authorized to dispense all categories of veterinary drugs. Sales at premises are effected by under the personal supervision of authorized persons. Sales representatives should be authorised by the MCAZ and should possess person's licenses.

What to watch out for on products

Packaging

Veterinary products should be stored and distributed in their original packaging from the manufacturer. These should also offer adequate protection from external influences, including microbial contamination. Customers should look out for safety features such as container seals that should be on the products. Any suspicious looking product should be reported to the manufacturer and investigated.

Labeling and Package Inserts

Drug labels should be printed in clear and indelible letters in the English language and any other language as may be directed or approved by the MCAZ. The drug should have a Zimbabwe registered number unless it has been approved to be sold without one. The label can also be written this statement, "for animal treatment only". Other requirements expected on the label are as follows:

- (a) Name and address of the principal;
- (b) Name and address of the manufacturer;
- (c) Quantity and strength of the active ingredient of the medicine;
- (d) Name and percentage of any bacteriostatic or bactericidal agent which is added to the medicine as a preservative;
- (e) Date of manufacture and expiry date of the medicine;
- (f) Batch number of the medicine;

- (g) Quantity of the medicine in the package;
- (h) Requirements for the method of storage or other necessary precautions for the preservation of the medicine;
- (i) Category of distribution of the medicine (VMGD, HR or PP)
- (j) The dosage of the medicine and the directions for use;
- (k) Any warning notices which shall be in a different color;
- (l) Zimbabwe registration details
- (m) Any other particulars as may be directed by the MCAZ

The product sold should have package insert of the medicine or contain the above information on the label should the package insert not accompany the product as directed by the MCAZ.

Storage and handling

Products have to be stored at specific temperature ranges. Most products need to be stored at room temperature and are stated "Store at controlled room temperature," or read as "Store at 20 °C to 25 °C". The recommended storage conditions for most veterinary medicines are 30°C. Medicine such as vaccines that need refrigerator storage may be stated as follows "Store in a refrigerator" or "Store at 2°C to 8°C".

Upon purchasing products, consumers should be wary of maintaining the temperature ranges during transportation to home or to areas of intended use. It is advisable to place products on ideal temperature areas of the trunk or passenger cabin on a hot summer and a cold winter day. Sometimes other alternative ways will need to be found to keep temperatures in vehicles within range. For example, vehicles can be parked in shaded areas to avoid extreme heat during summer, or in garages to avoid freezing temperatures in winter. In transportation of vaccines, two commonly used types of refrigerant are dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide gas) and wet ice (frozen water), which appears as crushed ice or in various refrigerant packs containing water mixtures with specific freezing points. Liquid vaccines should not be frozen, therefore should not be placed directly on ice.

When transporting fragile containers, one can improvise on shock absorbent material such as placing cotton, shredded paper or foam between products. Large-volume liquid containers may be bagged in plastic and kept isolated to prevent leakage to, or damage of, adjacent packages

Expired products

Drugs should be imported with not less than half of their shelf life remaining (e.g. a product that expires in 24 months should be imported with not less than 12 months of shelf life remaining. Products being sold for resale should be sold with not less than 3 months of expiry. Expired products should be disposed in accordance with the local authority regulations and/or as per the manufacturer specifications. Incineration is the mode of destruction mainly used for the destruction of expired products and done by City Health Department.

Fake or Counterfeit products

All complaints and other information pertaining to fake and counterfeit veterinary products should be directed to the supplier. The MCAZ and the DVFS should be notified of any fake and counterfeit products that have been identified on the market.