

Antimicrobial stewardship and resistance

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Policy Statement

This policy outlines the role of NSW Government (Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services) in antimicrobial stewardship and resistance in accordance with the National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy.

Scope

This policy applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) staff.

Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in terrestrial livestock, bees, aquatic animals, companion animals, pet shops, and wildlife are in scope.

AMS and AMR in humans, hospitals and general medical practices are out of scope.

Requirements

1. Safety

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI and LLS) as a person conducting a business or undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe work method statements that support activities included in this policy must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this policy.

2. Outcomes

2.1. Antimicrobial resistance threats to human health, animal health, animal welfare, animal production, and the environment in NSW as a result of sub-optimal antimicrobial stewardship in animals are assessed and managed according to a consistent, systematic and evidence-based decision-making process

- NSW legislation is contemporary and fit-for-purpose
- NSW Government considers antimicrobial stewardship and resistance in organisational plans
- NSW Government resources are allocated based on evidence of need to satisfy the outcomes of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy.

2.1.1. Activities

- NSW DPI to review the *Stock Medicines Act 1989* and the *Stock Medicines Regulation 2010* to explore opportunities to include consideration of antimicrobials in animal health and animal welfare (2.1a)

- NSW DPI collaborates with NSW Ministry of Health to review the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* and the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*, and other jurisdictional Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods legislations. (2.1a)
- NSW DPI reviews the procedures and delegations that relate to animal treatments allowed under the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*. (2.1a)
- NSW DPI engages with other jurisdictions to agree on national harmonisation of control-of-use legislation for veterinary chemicals including: treatment of minor food-producing species, other commercial species e.g. fur and fibre, all other animals that are not food-producing species and definitions of 'not for mass medication' (2.1a)
- NSW AMS & resistance policy is aligned with the National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy (2.1a)
- AMS & AMR is included in joint-NSWDPI/LLS strategic, business and operational plans (2.1b)
- NSW DPI appoints a NSW AMS Coordinator (2.1c)
- The NSW AMS Coordinator influences and clarifies the required role and responsibilities of jurisdictions that contribute to the National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy and seeks the use of consistent definitions of terminology (2.1c).

2.2. NSW Government guides and supports innovative research into antimicrobial alternatives in collaboration with partner organisations

- a. NSW Government supports national research activities
- b. NSW Government encourages the development and uptake of new tools, products and methodologies that promotes AMS nationally
- c. NSW Government proactively supports prioritisation, progression and availability of vaccines that would reduce the use of antimicrobials in terrestrial and aquatic industries
- d. NSW Government assesses and targets research into improved hygiene, mechanisms of resistance and potential concerns with heavy metal treatments to improve animal health and animal welfare and reduce reliance on antimicrobials.

2.2.1. Activities

- NSW DPI engages a specialist microbiologist to lead innovative research and develop and maintain knowledge and expertise within NSW DPI (2.2a)
- NSW Government supports nationally led projects to develop antimicrobial alternatives (2.2a)
- NSW DPI collaborates with the Institute for Clinical Pathology and Medical Research on bacteriophage research targeted to pathogens currently requiring antimicrobial usage (AMU) (2.2b)
- NSW DPI supports national and international efforts on vaccine development and adoption (2.2c)
- NSW DPI champions the Commonwealth for importation of key vaccines that would significantly reduce AMU without compromising the biosecurity-status of NSW (2.2c)
- NSW Government supports further research that targets AMU in agriculture that has the potential to cause increased AMR via environmental contamination when waste products are recycled on to agricultural land (2.2d)
- NSW DPI partners with NSW organisations with a strong animal health research focus (2.2d).

2.3. NSW Government activities minimise the incidence and impact of antimicrobial resistance threats to human health, animal health, animal welfare, animal production, and the environment in NSW as a result of antimicrobial stewardship in animals

- a. NSW Government promotes judicious use of antimicrobials in animals aligned with the 'Importance Ratings and Summary of Antibacterial Uses in Humans in Australia', Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (ASTAG) 2016 and the 'Veterinary Use of Antibiotics Highly Important to Human Health', Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) 2017
- b. NSW DPI proactively influences a national approach to the development of antimicrobial prescribing guidelines by supporting the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and Animal Medicines Australia antimicrobial prescribing guidelines for livestock species and horses project.

2.3.1. Activities

- NSW DPI maintains a dedicated AMR web page linked to other AMR-based web resources (2.3a)
- NSW DPI provides a project manager for the AVA and Animal Medicines Australia antibiotic prescribing guidelines for livestock species and horses project (2.3b)

2.4. Stakeholders are empowered to implement best practice antimicrobial stewardship practices

- a. NSW Government ensures that the interests of stakeholders in NSW are considered in antimicrobial stewardship activities
- b. NSW Government develops and maintains knowledge and expertise in antimicrobial stewardship and resistance programs in terrestrial and aquatic species
- c. NSW Government supports the education of terrestrial and aquatic producers to implement best practice in antimicrobial stewardship.

2.4.1 Activities

- Individual NSW DPI and LLS staff educate and promote the judicious use of antimicrobials with individual enterprises in response to industry requests for assistance e.g. developing industries (2.4a)
- NSW DPI develops clear messaging about true AMU and residue status in NSW terrestrial and aquatic production sectors, including clarifying the difference between 'resistance' and 'residues' (2.4a)
- NSW DPI utilises scientific evidence-based systems to support AMS and appropriate AMU in NSW to maintain animal health and animal welfare (2.4a)
- NSW Government identifies market advantages of prudent AMU and discusses with species-specific industry bodies and the Commonwealth (2.4a)
- NSW Food Authority educates stakeholders about safe food handling, with flow on effects for reduced prevalence of pathogens (2.4a)
- NSW DPI is represented on relevant committees, working groups and task groups (2.4b)
- The development and implementation of AMS programs by industry and the Commonwealth is supported by the NSW Government (2.4c)
- NSW Government promotes appropriate and judicious use of antimicrobials to ensure high animal welfare standards (2.4c)

Procedures

- Procedure – Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information.

Definitions

AMR: Antimicrobial resistance

AMS: Antimicrobial stewardship

Legislation

- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulation 1995*
- *Animal Research Act 1985*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*
- *Food Act 2003*
- *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- *Government Sector Employment Act 2013*
- *Local Land Services Act 2013*
- *Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*
- *NSW Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994*
- *NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966*
- *NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008*
- *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*
- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*
- *Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Protection of Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014*

- *State Records Act 1998*
- *Stock Medicines Act 1989*
- *Stock Medicines Regulation 2010*
- *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

Related policies

- Policy – Biosecurity - Principles for management of animal biosecurity and welfare in NSW
- Policy – Biosecurity - Endemic pests and diseases of animals
- Policy – Biosecurity - Surveillance for pests and diseases of animals
- Policy – Biosecurity - Chemically affected food-producing animals, animal food commodities and stock food
- Policy – Biosecurity - Animal welfare (under development)
- Policy – Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure of information
- Policy – Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)

Other related documents

- Food Standard (sets out Maximum Residue Limits)
- ‘Importance Ratings and Summary of Antibacterial Uses in Humans in Australia’, Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (ASTAG) 2016
- National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy
- Poisons Standard (sets out poisons schedule)
- ‘Veterinary Use of Antibiotics Highly Important to Human Health’, Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) 2017

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	7/12/2018	New policy to address an emerging biosecurity risk with significant impacts.	Animal Biosecurity

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