

October 13, 2017 – The Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) and the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada (ANAC) are working collaboratively to ensure awareness of the move of Medically Important Antimicrobials (MIA) to Prescription (Pr) Drug status, commencing in February 2018, to support responsible antimicrobial use in animals.

Health Canada recognized the need for a transition period to accompany these changes, meaning the products affected by the move to Pr status can continue to be sold and distributed by lay outlets until December 1, 2018 with their current over-the-counter (OTC) labels. Animal pharmaceutical companies have started the process of updating MIA product labels to reflect the future Pr status and are aligned with Health Canada to be producing all MIA product labels as Pr by December 1, 2018. Once these updated Pr labels are available, animal pharmaceutical companies will start using them and these products will only be distributed in the veterinary channel. OTC labels will continue to be distributed to lay outlets and feed mills until December 1, 2018 after which all the MIA products must be used under the guidance of a valid veterinary prescription. It is recognized that there will be both OTC and Pr labelled MIA in the marketplace during the transition period.

Feed companies will be able to warehouse and include these prescription status medicated drug premixes in complete feed, supplements and micro and macro premixes and sell these medicated feed products to their customers provided that they have a valid prescription on file as of December 1, 2018. Whole unit sale of MIA prescription products, including injectable, water soluble or medicated feed additive products, will only be available through a licensed veterinarian or pharmacist after December 1, 2018.

Effective December 1, 2018, all MIA products will move to prescription status, regardless of the label, and will no longer be allowed to be sold by lay outlets. OTC MIA's will no longer be available in the Canadian marketplace. CAHI members will work with their customers to manage their inventory accordingly to ensure that these prescription products are no longer available in lay outlets by Dec 1, 2018 and also to ensure that the path of supply ensures veterinarian oversight.

For more information contact:

Jean Szkotnicki
Canadian Animal Health Institute
(519) 763-7777
cahi@cahi-icsa.ca
160 Research Lane, Suite 102
Guelph, ON N1G 5B2

Melissa Dumont
Animal Nutrition Association of Canada
(613) 241-6421
info@anacan.org
150, Metcalfe Street, Suite 1301
Ottawa, ON K2P 1P1