

# In-feed Antimicrobials and Working with Commercial Feed Mills



**FAAST**  
FARMED ANIMAL ANTIMICROBIAL  
STEWARDSHIP

Veterinarian FAASTsheet 8 of 11

## What Is Changing and When?

### What?

There will no longer be growth promotion claims on drug products containing medically important antimicrobials (MIAs) (Category I, II, and III antimicrobials; [List A Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients](#)), including in-feed medications, for use in food animals – labels for these products will only have treatment, prevention, and control claims.

1. Labels of all drug products containing MIAs will include responsible use statements.
2. All MIAs will be included on Health Canada's Prescription Drug List (PDL)

Certain MIAs that were approved for use in animals prior to 2004 as non-prescription drugs will now be available by prescription only. These include:

- Apramycin
- Bacitracin
- Erythromycin
- Lincomycin
- Neomycin
- Penicillin G Spectinomycin
- Streptomycin/Dihydrostreptomycin
- Sulphonamides
- Tilmicosin
- Tiamulin
- Tylosin/Tylvalosin
- Virginiamycin
- Tetracycline/Chlortetracycline/Oxytetracycline
- Or their salts and derivatives

CONTAINS  
ANTIMICROBIAL  
USE RESPONSIBLY



**When?** December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

# How Does This Affect Availability of Medicated Feeds from Feed Mills?

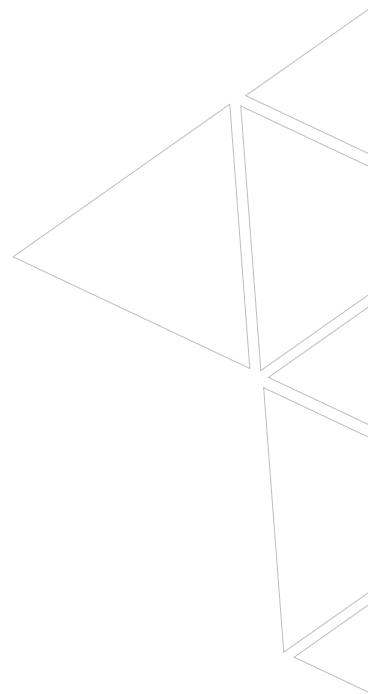
## As of December 1st, 2018:

Commercial feed mills (facilities that mix and manufacture feed for commercial sale in accordance with the Feeds Act) can continue to purchase drug premixes bearing a Drug Identification Number (**DIN**) for mixing in feed, however:

- They cannot sell DIN drug premixes to animal owners for mixing on farm – only veterinarians and pharmacists will be able to sell these once a prescription is provided.
- They can no longer sell any mixed feeds (complete feeds, supplements, macro premixes, micro premixes) containing MIAs to animal owners without a prescription

Commercial feed mills will be able to floor stock medicated mixed feeds that are made in accordance with the [Compendium of Medicating Ingredient Brochures](#) (**CMIB**)

- All label claims for in-feed drugs containing MIAs approved for sale in Canada have been added to the CMIB as of April 2018. This will help feed mills to quickly provide standard medicated feeds when a prescription is provided.
- Medicated feed not listed in the CMIB (i.e. off-label) will be made to order by the mill once a veterinary prescription is received, which may have an effect on how quickly animal owners can obtain medicated feed.



## Why Is This Changing?

To help reduce the ongoing emergence of antimicrobial resistance, Health Canada is increasing the oversight of antimicrobial use in animals. An important component of this strategy is to move all MIAs to the prescription drug list PDL. These actions align with international best-practices, and protect human and animal health, as well as food safety.

Without veterinary oversight, animal owners may be less likely to follow good antimicrobial stewardship practices. Veterinarians, uniquely positioned as experts in animal health, have the experience, skills, and education to help ensure that antimicrobial use is justified and appropriate, as part of good antimicrobial stewardship.





## What Do These Changes Mean for Veterinarians?

These changes might come as a surprise to some animal owners, so veterinarians will need to explain why these changes are occurring. As all MIAs will require prescriptions, veterinarians will need to ensure that they are knowledgeable about prescription practice standards.

Developing relationships with local feed mills and animal nutritionists will help make the process of prescribing and dispensing in-feed antimicrobials as smooth as possible.

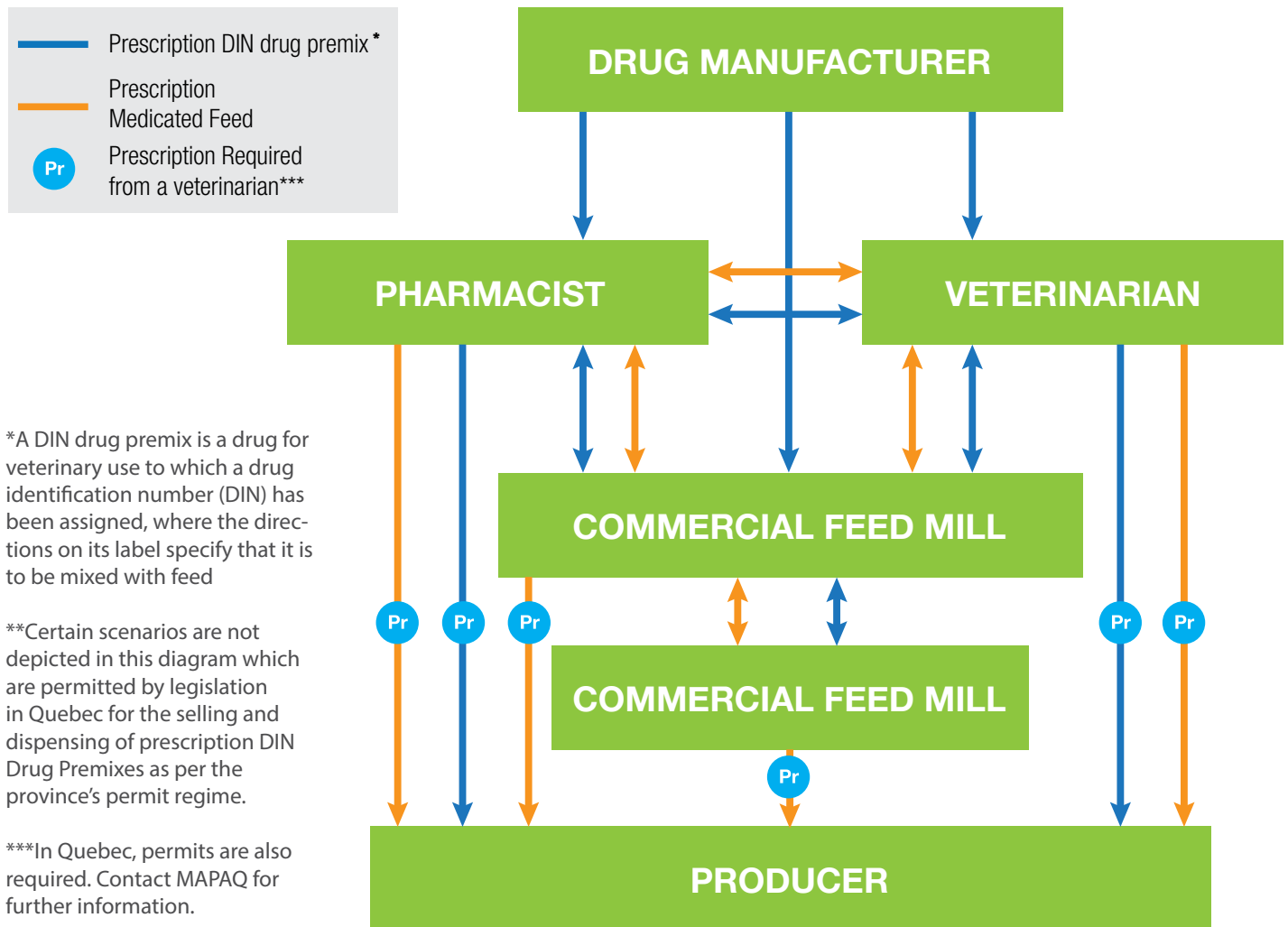
Veterinarians may see an increase in demand for services, as animal owners who had previously been able to obtain MIAs from commercial feed mills without prescriptions will need to establish a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (**VCPR**) to obtain prescriptions for in-feed medications.

The ability for feed mills to floor-stock on-label medicated mixed feeds is also important to consider, as it can have a significant effect on the speed with which clients can obtain medicated feed once their veterinarian writes the prescription.



## How do animal owners access MIAs and prescription medicated feed?

See **Figure 1** below for a flow chart by the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada:



**Figure 1.** Flow chart illustrating the flow, as per federal and provincial laws and regulations, of prescription DIN drug premixes and prescription medicated feed in Canada. Source: [ANAC, 2018](#)

These changes could present a number of opportunities for veterinarians to shift client focus toward disease management tools other than in-feed antimicrobials, including improved biosecurity, nutrition, and vaccination strategies.



## How Does This Impact Your Clients?

Animal owners who have not previously worked with veterinarians will need to establish a valid VCPR to obtain MIAs that were previously available without a prescription.

Commercial feed mills can only sell MIAs if the drug is first mixed in feed AND a prescription is provided.

Animal owners that had been using MIAs as growth promotants will no longer be able to do so. Enhanced veterinary involvement will encourage appropriate antimicrobial use, as well as an opportunity to work with veterinarians on other areas of management (e.g. biosecurity, vaccination, nutrition and feeding) that can help reduce the overall need for antimicrobials.

## For More Information

[Farmed Animal Antimicrobial Stewardship \(FAAST\)](#)

[Animal Nutrition Association of Canada - A Variety of Resources on Antimicrobial Stewardship from the Perspective of the Feed Industry](#)

[Health Canada: Veterinary Antimicrobial Sales Reporting](#)

[Health Canada: List a – List of Certain Antimicrobial Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients That Are Important to Human Medicine](#)

