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POLICY ON THE BAN ON THE USE OF COLISTIN AS COCCIDIOSTAT

INTRODUCTION

Colistin is an antibiotic meant for therapeutic purposes in veterinary. It is used for the prevention and treatment of diseases caused by sensitive bacteria (e.g. Salmonella and Escherichia coli) in rabbits, pigs, poultry, cattle, sheep and goats. In poultry and swine production, colistin sulfate is indicated for the prevention and control of gastrointestinal diseases caused by Gram-negative bacteria, Escherichia coli and Salmonella spp.

DIRECTIVE

Antimicrobials are used in veterinary medicine for treating and preventing animal disease. The global annual consumption of antimicrobials intended for animal use is on the increase and it is believed that excessive use of antimicrobials in animal production is a major factor contributing to the global rise in AMR.

Colistin- an antibiotic is a cyclic polypeptide antibiotic and has a bactericidal action against selected Gram-negative bacteria. It is a last-resort drug for the treatment of infection caused by multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria.

Colistin was banned because of its nephrotoxicity and neurotoxicity activity in humans; however, it was reintroduced to treat carbapenem resistance in Gram-negative bacteria. Unfortunately, colistin resistance mechanisms have now been documented in Enterobacteriaceae strains capable of producing carbapenemase, making them resistant to both classes of drugs and a global health concern.

The use of Colistin as a Coccidiostat in animal feed is therefore banned.

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