

Animal Antibiotic Changes are Coming in 2023. How Will They Impact Access to Everyday Medications?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [announced](#) in June 2021 that all medically important antimicrobials for food-producing animals and pets will move from over-the-counter (OTC) to prescription (Rx) effective June 2023.

This change impacts any product that contains the following:

- Oxytetracycline
- Penicillin
- Sulfa-based antibiotics (sulfadimethoxine and sulfamethazine)
- Tylosin
- Cephapirin and Cephapirin Benzathine
- Swine medications Lincomycin and Gentamicin

It's a big deal that's making waves across the industry, so we want to make sure everyone understands the change and has time to prepare for it.

Changes That Affect Your Animals

In 2018, the FDA laid out its 5-year action plan for supporting antimicrobial supervision by veterinarians. The plan aims to address antimicrobial resistance by only using medically necessary drugs assessed as necessary to treat, control or prevent certain diseases. Licensed veterinarians must determine the necessity, but you won't have to order the prescriptions from the vet directly. You will, however, need to establish a Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) if certain animals aren't examined regularly.

Popular Products Will Require Prescriptions

After months of a [penicillin shortage](#) has created supply challenges of its own, soon producers will get hit with this change that once again impacts access to antibiotic therapy for animals. When you've used them for so long as OTC meds to treat pneumonia or shipping fever in your cattle or sheep, it's going to take some getting used to.

Here's an updated list (as of 11/15/22), sorted by active ingredient, of **items that will require prescriptions starting in June 2023**. We have tried to make the list as complete as possible and it includes the products we are aware of at this time. [It is not an exhaustive list](#) as there may be other affected items.

Cephapirin Based Active Ingredient

- [ToDay Mastitis Treatment for Lactating Cows](#) by Boehringer Ingelheim
- [ToMORROW Dry Cow Mastitis Treatment](#) by Boehringer Ingelheim

Gentamicin Active Ingredient

- [Gentamicin Piglet Injection](#) by Sparhawk

Lincomycin HCl Active Ingredient

- [Lincomycin 300 Swine Injection](#) by Durvet
- [Lincomix Injectable Antibiotic](#) for Swine by Zoetis

Novobiocin Sodium Active Ingredient

- [Albadry Plus Suspension Dry Cow Formula](#) by Zoetis

Oxytetracycline Active Ingredient

- [Agrimycin 200 Oxytetracycline Injection](#) by AgriLabs
- [Bio-Mycin 200 Cattle and Swine Antibiotic Injection](#) by Boehringer Ingelheim
- [Calf Scour Boluses](#) by Durvet *This item has been discontinued.*
- [Duramycin 72-200 Injectable Antibiotic for Cattle and Swine](#) by Durvet
- [Liquamycin LA-200 Injection](#) by Zoetis
- [Noromycin 300 LA](#) by Norbrook
- [Oxy 500 Calf Boluses](#) by Boehringer Ingelheim
- [Oxytet 100 for Cattle](#) by Norbrook
- [Terramycin Calf Scours Tablets](#) by Zoetis
- [Terramycin Ophthalmic Ointment for Animal Use](#) by Zoetis

Penicillin Based Active Ingredient

- [Albadry Plus Suspension Dry Cow Formula](#) by Zoetis
- [Combi-Pen Injectable](#) by Bimeda
- [Dura-Pen Injectable](#) by Durvet
- [Go-Dry Penicillin G Procaine Dry Cow Mastitis Treatment](#) by US Vet
- [Masti-Clear Penicillin G Procaine Lactating Cow Mastitis Treatment](#) by US Vet
- [Penicillin G/Norocillin Injectable](#) by Durvet
- PenOne Pro Penicillin G Injectable by VetOne
- [Pro-Pen-G Injectable](#) by Bimeda

Spectinomycin Active Ingredient

- [SpectoGard Scour-Chek](#) by Bimeda

Sulfonamides / Sulfa Based Active Ingredients

- [Albon Cattle Boluses](#) by Zoetis
- [Di-Methox Injection 40%](#) by AgriLabs
- [SulfaMed Injection 40%](#) by Bimeda
- [Sustain III Boluses](#) by Bimeda

Tylosin Active Ingredient

- [Tylan 200 Tylosin Antibiotic for Cattle and Swine](#) by Elanco
- [Tylan 50 Injectable Antibiotic](#) by Elanco

NOTE: Some of these products are tough to find in stock because of the penicillin shortage, but that's a separate issue from the OTC status change. When you find them in stock, you can still order them through May 2023. Some customers mistakenly believe they need prescriptions now, but that's not the case. The law won't go into effect until June.