

VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SA

RURAL VETS MEETING

PRESCRIBING IN RURAL PRACTICE

February 2008

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VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SA

PRESCRIBING IN RURAL PRACTICE

1. THE ROLE OF THE BOARD
2. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT 1984
3. VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE
4. SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SA

ROLE OF THE BOARD

- To maintain the standard of professional practice in South Australia
- To investigate ALL complaints made to the Board
- To register all veterinary surgeons in South Australia
- To support animal welfare principles

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The role of the Board requires it to

1. ensure vets comply with Acts/ regulations, including

Veterinary Practice Act 2003

Controlled Substances Act 1984

Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act

2. As a statutory body, the Board has powers to develop and issue guidelines which are endorsed under the Act

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT 1984

Administered by Department of Health
Applies to all medical professions,
including vets

Prescribes classes of drugs/ poisons - eg

Pharmacy only – Schedule 3

Prescription medications - Schedule 4

Dangerous poison – Schedule 7

Controlled Drugs – Schedule 8

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

Key sections of the CSA 1984:

S.18 – Sale, supply, administration and possession

S.21 – Sale or supply of harmful substances

S.22 – Possession

S.23 – Quality

S.24 – Packaging and labelling

S.25 – Storage

S.26 – Transportation

S.27 – Use

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT

Vets are in a unique and privileged position with controlled substances, because they are:

- **authorised to purchase from wholesalers**
- **able to manufacture small amounts for normal vet service (but not mass produce)**
- **able to sell, prescribe and administer**
- **able to prescribe and supply to others to administer**

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE

Set of 10 Standards apply when supplying, prescribing and dispensing

- 1. Is the client a bona fide client?**
- 2. Is there a therapeutic need?**
- 3. Is this animal/s under my care?**
- 4. Has legislation about storage and handling been followed?**
- 5. Do I have documentation, records and labelling protocols?**
- 6. Do I have a system of follow-up to check on the use of, and outcome from, the medication/drug**
- 7. Can I provide after-care for the animal/s?**
- 8. Does my client understand all instructions and consequently will use the medication/drug properly**
- 9. Is the amount dispensed reasonable?**
- 10. Is the dispensing in the best interests of the animal/s?**

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE

1. Bona fide client

- Demonstrated clinical relationship with the animal/ herd in the last 12 months
- Demonstrated 'on farm' visits attending to animal/ herd, at least once every 12 months
- Client is responsible for the animal husbandry and day to day management of animal/ herd. Could be owner, or 'responsible agent' – eg stud or farm manager but not a farm contractor

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE

2. Therapeutic need

- **Vet has assessed the animal/ herd/ flock**
- **There is a clinical justification for the medication**

3. Animal is under vet's care

- **Vet has been given responsibility for care of the animal by the bona fide client**
- **Vet has had contact with the animal**
- **Vet has knowledge of the current health and treatment status of the animal**

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE

4. Storage and handling

- **Vet is responsible for ensuring drugs are stored and handled in accordance with Controlled Substances Act**

5. Documentation and Records

- **Clinical records kept to justify the diagnosis and therapeutic need**
- **Record includes type of drug dispensed, dosage, quantity, outcomes and any follow-up required**
- **Ensure comprehensive labelling of drugs dispensed**

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE

6. Follow-up and Outcome of treatment

- Review of treatment to assess whether expected outcome is achieved
- Identify unexpected outcomes or side-effects of medication
- Monitor client's drug supplies
- Enables reporting of adverse reactions

7. After care

- Ensure after care and follow-up is arranged with the client
- May be arranged with another vet – if so, good communication between vets is imperative

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE

8. Client understands all instructions

- **Vet should provide full information to client, including dosage, route and method of administration, possible side effects and withholding periods or export slaughter intervals**
- **Vet must have confidence in their client's husbandry, skills, and knowledge of treatment**
- **Handling aids such as latex gloves can be provided with some medications**
- **Document any specific instructions given to client**

VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL DISPENSING SERVICE

9. Amount dispensed

- Vet should not dispense drugs on a 'just in case' basis
- All of the drug supplied should be used for the specific purpose intended at that time
- Follow up may involve retrieval of unused drug for proper disposal

10. Interest of the animal

- Ensure animal welfare is the prime consideration when dispensing drugs
- Drugs should not be dispensed just for convenience, profit or to keep a client happy

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I supply Xylazine to shearing contractors?

Under the Code of Practice, Xylazine is inappropriate for shearing rams. ACP is the medication of choice as it is less harmful to humans. All survey respondents (15) supported its use. It should be provided to the 'bona-fide' client – shearing contractors do not fit the criteria for 'bona-fide' client. A 'blanket' dose should not be provided – the animals should be assessed and the required quantity provided.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I supply Xylazine to equine dentists?

No. Equine dentists are not considered to be bona fide clients if providing their dentistry services on another person's horse. It is therefore inappropriate to supply Xylazine for their use.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I assess the client's understanding of my instructions about administering drugs?

You should have a general knowledge of the capacity of your bona fide clients – ie animal husbandry techniques, knowledge of treatment, skills in administration etc. You should also require the client to sign a consent form acknowledging they are fully aware of the instructions given. You can ask the client to explain their understanding of the instructions given to them by you.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I make sure the client is a 'bona fide' client?

A bona fide client 'is one where

You can demonstrate a clinical relationship with the animal/ s in the last 12 months

You have visited the farm

The client is the person with responsibility for the day to day management and treatment for animal/ s. May be the owner of the property, owner of the animal/ s or another person with that responsibility.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about a new client who rings for medication?

Medication should not be provided to someone who is not a bona fide client. It can be supplied to a 'new' client, if they are a bona fide client of another vet; in this situation, you should be in communication with their vet and advise the client of this.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the requirements for storing and transporting drugs when I'm 'on the road'?

For efficacy and safety reasons, all medication should remain in their original pack

All poisons should be stored in containers which will not break or leak

S.8 's must be locked in a secure container attached to the vehicle, which itself is locked

S.3,4 & 7 's must be kept in a place where they are not able to be accessed by the public. A locked vehicle is deemed to be an inaccessible place.

VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SA

This presentation will be available on website.

www.vsbsa.org.au

The issues raised tonight will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

The outcomes from the Board meeting on these issues will be sent out to all vets in SA

News and information is regularly posted on the Board's website.

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