

CHAPTER 6.6.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROLLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Article 6.6.1.

Objective

The purpose of Chapters 6.7., 6.8., 6.9. and 6.10. is to provide methodologies for Member Countries to appropriately address the emergence or spread of resistant bacteria from the use of *antimicrobial agents* in *animals* and to contain antimicrobial resistance through controlling the use of *antimicrobial agents*.

These chapters should be read in conjunction with the standards, codes of practice and guidelines on antimicrobial resistance developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Antimicrobial agents are essential drugs for human and animal health and welfare. The OIE recognises the need for access to *antimicrobial agents* in veterinary medicine: *antimicrobial agents* are essential for treating and controlling infectious *diseases* in *animals*. The OIE therefore considers that ensuring continued access to effective *antimicrobial agents* is important.

The OIE recognises that antimicrobial resistance is a global public and animal health concern that is influenced by the usage of *antimicrobial agents* in humans, *animals* and elsewhere. Those working in the human, animal and plant sectors have a shared responsibility to prevent or minimise pressures for the selection of antimicrobial resistance factors in humans and *animals*. Arising from its mandate for the protection of animal health and food safety, the OIE developed these chapters to provide guidance to Member Countries in regard to risks in all animal sectors.

The application of *risk assessment* measures should be based on relevant international standards on *risk analysis* and supported by sound data and information when available. The methodologies provided in these chapters should be consulted as part of the standard approach to prevent and reduce antimicrobial resistance.

