Title: Surveillance

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- We'll now talk about surveillance as part of the Responsible and Legal Use of Antibiotics. At the start, we said that safe, responsible legal use is achieved by VMD checking that manufacturing is high-quality and consistent, also controlling the supply of medicines proportionate to their risk, classifying them according to that, so that the appropriate level of professional advice is always available with medicines.

So the antibiotics are all POM-V, prescription-only medicine veterinarian, so they can only be prescribed by vets. And then, practises and vets have to look after medicines once they've come into their possession by storing them appropriately, using them appropriately. And the last part of the chain is surveillance. So that any information about the medicine use, that might be relevant, is fed back to VMD.

So surveillance, or pharmacovigilance, is all about adverse events, it's all about the recording of adverse events, which are then sent to VMD, and they can analyse the adverse events. And we're bound to see adverse events because there is no such thing as a medicine without side effects. Medicines are always a risk benefit, not using medicines is always a risk benefit analysis, and we have to use them so that the benefit to the animal is much more likely to be than the risk. So therefore, there will always be side effects, and it's really important, that as veterinary surgeons we report those adverse events, as a result of prescribing medicines, because then VMD can act on the information, if necessary. We don't have to worry about reporting it, the VMD won't do something based on one small report, but if the people are consistently reporting an issue it will start to flag up at VMD when they're analysing the figures.

Adverse events, even if not proven, if just suspected, and the scheme used to be called the Suspected Adverse Event Reporting Surveillance Scheme. All those should be reported to VMD. You should report them even if you've used multiple medicines and you're not sure which one may have caused the problem. It's nice and easy to report online, there's a form to fill in, it only takes a few seconds. And I think we all need to report these things more because if there, unless they report it, we won't find out if there's any issues.

So what should be reported, and why is this important for AMR? Well, the sort of things that should be reported should be adverse events of all medicines, even if not supplied by the practise, even if they're over the counter medicines or POM-VPS medicines. If they caused an adverse event that you know about report them, even if used according to their S, sorry, even if not used according to their SPC, report it. Include reactions in people using the medicines, include environmental issues. But the really important thing from the point of view of AMR is to report suspected lack of expected efficacy. This is also really important for, of course for antibiotic resistance. With antibiotics, wormers, et cetera, it's really important if you've used them and you do not think they've been effective, that

needs to be reported to VMD. Because this is the only way, or the main way, the VMD will find out about resistance issues. So reporting suspected lack of efficacy is extremely important. Thank you.