



ANIMAL MEDICINES TRAINING REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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OP sheep dips: **Use in showers, jettors or sprayers**

With confirmation of resistance in sheep scab mites to the injectable MLs, OP dips are a vital tool for scab control. However, if we are to ensure that OPs are used effectively and to avoid the risk that mites develop resistance to this last line of defence, they must be used responsibly. **OP Sheep dips are not effective when used in showers, jettors or sprayers** and the VMD has confirmed that **SQPs must not prescribe OP sheep dips for use in showers, jettors or sprayers.**

Prescription by SQPs for such off-label use would be a breach of the SQP Code of Practice which says SQPs must take into account the requirement for the person receiving the product to use it for an authorised use. Off-label use can only be prescribed by a vet, not an SQP.

All prescribers must take into account the need for responsible use of medicines every time a medicine is prescribed. Use in showers or jettors is not generally responsible use and is contrary to the Code and cascade on that basis.

As well as being “off label”, parasitologists advise that showering or jetting against scab does not work. It may damp down problems for a while, but won’t help in proper control or eradication, and by sending sheep to market that have been showered/jetted, and carrying “hidden” scab, we may be making the problem in the national flock worse, not better.

Showering or jetting with OPs is a waste of farmers’ money and through sub-lethal exposure could lead to resistance against diazinon developing, the last thing we need with the problem of scab mite resistance to MLs .

So, when issuing a prescription and supplying an OP dip you should stress to the farmer that it must not be used in a shower or jetting application. Do not assume the farmer will know this nor that using an OP in this could render them liable for prosecution under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

AMTRA will consider disciplinary cases and/or reporting to VMD where we are made aware of any SQP or business supplying sheep dip contrary to the Code or the Regulations. Any cases of a veterinary surgeons supplying dip for use in showers/jettors will also be notified to the VMD and RCVS.

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