

What is the Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)?

As defined in the AVMA's Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics:

- The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the patient, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions.
- The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient. This means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the patient by virtue of a timely examination of the patient by the veterinarian or medically appropriate and timely visits by the veterinarian to the operation where the patient is managed.
- The veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged for veterinary emergency coverage and continuing care and treatment.
- The veterinarian provides oversight of treatment, compliance, and outcome.
- Patient records are maintained.
- VFD order forms must be kept for a *minimum of 2 years* by the client AND the veterinarian).

Obtaining a VFD feed

- Producer contacts a licensed veterinarian; veterinarian properly fills out the VFD form and either sends it directly to the feed supplier OR provides producer with two copies (one for producer, one for feed supplier).
- Clients are prohibited from using any VFD feed beyond the scope of the instructions of the veterinarian.
- VFD feed(s) and VFD drug(s) cannot be shared with other operations.



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For more information, contact your *private veterinarian* or University of Hawai'i Extension.

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Disclaimer

Mention of specific brand names does not constitute endorsement on the part of the authors, CTAHR, or the University of Hawai'i.

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FDA Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Regulation

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What is a Veterinary Feed Directive Order (VFD)?

- A written document issued by a licensed veterinarian (in the context of a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship) that authorizes the use of a VFD drug, or a combination of VFD drugs, on or in an animal feed.
- It is similar to a "prescription," but it requires specific information and language in order to be compliant.

What is a "VFD drug"?

A drug deemed "medically important" for humans that is intended for use on or in animal feed and is used under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

What are the changes?

- Certain drugs have recently moved from over-the-counter (OTC) status to VFD status (those administered in feed) or prescription status (those administered in drinking water).
- VFD orders are now required for use of VFD drugs on or in medicated feeds, thereby requiring veterinary oversight.
- "Medically important" antibiotics are only allowed for FDA-approved uses (e.g., no longer allowed for growth promotion).
- NO EXTRA-LABEL use of VFD drugs in feed is allowed.

What is the reason for these rule changes?

Growing concern over general antibiotic resistance of pathogens prompted these rule changes as part of an effort to promote judicious use of medically important antibiotics in food-production animals.

Drugs recently moved from OTC to VFD status

Antibiotic Class	Examples
Aminoglycosides	Apramycin, Hygromycin B, Neomycin, Streptomycin, Gentamicin
Diaminopyrimidines	Ormetoprim
Lincosamides	Lincomycin
Macrolides	Erythromycin, Oleandomycin, Tylosin
Penicillins	Penicillin
Streptogramins	Virginiamycin
Sulfas	Sulfadimethoxine, Sulfamerazine, Sulfamethazine, Sulfaquinoxaline
Tetracyclines	Chlortetracycline, Oxytetracycline

Drugs that ALREADY required a VFD

- Avilamycin
- Florfenicol
- Tilmicosin

Drugs that do NOT require a VFD because they are not “medically important” or are not antimicrobials

Antibiotic Class	Examples
Ionophores	Monensin, Lasalocid, etc.
Bacitracin	BMD, bacitracin zinc
Bambermycins	Flavomycin
Carbadox	
Anthelmintics	Coumaphos, Fenbendazole, Ivermectin
Beta-agonists	Ractopamine, Zilpaterol
Coccidiostats	Clopidol, Decoquinat, Diclazuril

This fillable form is published by the American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931 North Meacham Rd, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173. The form is provided for your convenience, and is consistent with the common format published in the Food and Drug Administration's draft Guidance for Industry #233, "Veterinary Feed Directive Common Format Questions and Answers." This form is not intended to provide legal advice or opinion and should not be construed as such. This form should be completed with all information required by applicable federal statutes and regulations related to the Veterinary Feed Directive.

Veterinary Feed Directive

Veterinarian: _____ Client: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Fax or email (optional): _____ Fax or email (optional): _____

Drug(s): _____ Drug Level: _____ g/ton Duration of Use: _____

No substitutions allowed

Species and production class: _____ **No refills/reorders authorized**

Indications for use: _____

Caution (if any): _____

USE OF FEED CONTAINING THIS VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE (VFD) DRUG IN A MANNER OTHER THAN AS DIRECTED ON THE LABELING (EXTRALABEL USE) IS NOT PERMITTED

Approximate number of animals: _____

Premises: _____

Other identification (e.g., age, weight) (optional): _____

Special instructions (if any): _____

Affirmation of intent (for combination VFD drugs) (mark one statement)*

(*For VFD drugs for which there are no approved VFD combinations, only the first affirmation statement should be marked)

- This VFD only authorizes the use of the VFD drug(s) cited in this order and is not intended to authorize the use of such drug(s) in combination with any other animal drugs.
- This VFD authorizes the use of the VFD drug(s) cited in this order in the following FDA-approved, conditionally approved, or indexed combination(s) in medicated feed that contains the VFD drug(s) as a component:

Drug(s)	Drug Level(s) and Any Special Instructions

- This VFD authorizes the use of the VFD drug(s) cited in this order in any FDA-approved, conditionally approved, or indexed combination(s) in medicated feed that contains the VFD drug(s) as a component.

▶ Withdrawal time (if any): This VFD must be withdrawn ____ days prior to slaughter ◀

VFD date of issuance (month/day/year): _____ VFD expiration date (month/day/year): _____

(As specified in the approval; cannot exceed 6 months after issuance)

Veterinarian's signature: _____

All parties must retain a copy of this VFD for 2 years after the date of issuance

