**Request for Information**

**Draft Service Requirement Specification**

**Provision of standardised vet practice medicine sales data for livestock farms**

# Introduction

AHDB wishes to understand the capacity and level of expertise within the market to deliver the capability to capture and standardise veterinary medicine sales data to UK farms. This requirement is needed to import data from veterinary practise management systems to the AHDB’s electronic medicine hub (eMH). It will be important that any provider has a proven track record in engaging with vets to collect and standardise medicine use data at farm level across the ruminant livestock sectors.

The eMH is being developed to collect farm and enterprise level medicine use data in order to measure and benchmark current levels of usage, to protect the reputation of the ruminant livestock sector, support trade and facilitate responsible medicine use. In order to do that there is a need to capture veterinary medicine sales to farmers who wish to share data in this way. Lack of standardisation of data capture across the many practise management systems operated by UK vets means this requires a capability to import and then standardise this data to that it can be incorporated into eMH. It is expected that the eMH will be rolled out for use by the ruminant sector by the end of 2020. Therefore speed in establishing the capability to import vet practice data is of the essence.

# Farm type

The initial focus for this work is to import data from veterinary practices covering as many dairy, beef and sheep farms as possible, with data from pig farms being a potential future requirement. The current electronic medicines book operated by AHDB Pork covers all regions of the UK, and it is anticipated that the eMH for ruminants should have the same capability. The service provider must have established working relationships with a large number of farm animal vets across the UK. They should already be working with those practises to demonstrate the value of data in delivering value to their farmer clients, as a key route of entry and uptake for eMH.

# Geographical coverage

The service provider must have experience of working with a minimum of 8-10 different practice management systems across the UK. They should currently be working with the majority of the major practise management systems operating in the UK, ensuring sufficient spread in the diversity and quality of systems from which data are being collected. There also needs to be good coverage across the target livestock sectors.

# Proven mechanism for standardising veterinary medicines sale data

The service provider must have a proven, robust mechanism for standardising all the veterinary medicine sales data from relevant vet practises to provide a list of products according to a standardised product name and Vm number (also called an MA or Marketing Authorisation number). The system must also provide a standardised unit, e.g., ml for injectables/oral solutions, g for oral powders/ premixes.

Product names and units must match those provided by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). A cattle and sheep specific spreadsheet, showing all licensed medicines, standard units and amount of active ingredient per unit is available in Appendix 1.

The data must be provided at a farm level for a user defined period of time. Details for all transactions (date, product name, amount and unit) to the farm should be included at a transaction level. The flexibility to vary the relevant period of use would be a further advantage.

# Enterprise identifiers

The service provider should have experience of working with data from vet practice management systems to assign medicines to different types of farm enterprise. There should be a clear, verified methodology for how this is achieved.

# Proven system

The system to deliver the capability required must be mature, fully user-tested and proven in practice. It must have a strong track record with evidence of successful delivery in a farm animal veterinary context over a number of years. It should have sufficient experienced staff to support the vets in making best use of the system and have earned a high level of trust and credibility with their clients.

# Data permissions

Data permissions must be managed effectively and efficiently so that the farmer and the vet both give permission to share data, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) rules are fully complied with.

# Appendix 1

**VMD Cattle and sheep product list**

