

# SIX MOMENTS OF VETERINARY ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING

1

## DIAGNOSIS

Is microbial / bacterial infection highly likely?

- History & physical examination.
- Cytology.
- Specimens for laboratory testing (eg Gram stain, culture and susceptibility).

2

## TREATMENT

Is antimicrobial treatment necessary?

What non-antimicrobial approaches should be considered?

- Fluid therapy, electrolytes, anti-inflammatory drugs, nutritional support, surgical drainage of abscess, removal of foreign body, debridement, probiotics, watchful waiting.

3

## GUIDELINES

What guidelines should I review and implement for my patient?



4

## ANTIMICROBIAL SELECTION

What is the most appropriate antimicrobial agent for this patient with this condition?

Consider:

- Public Health critical importance rating.
- Products available.
- Routes of administration.
- Efficacy at the target site.
- Potential drug-associated adverse effects.
- Drug interactions.
- Prior treatment history.
- Antimicrobial resistance.

5

## DOSAGE REGIMEN

What dosage regimen is best for this patient?

FORMULATION

DOSE

ROUTE

FREQUENCY

DURATION

- Client ability to adhere to and comply with dosing instructions.
- Patient's tolerance of treatment.

6

## ADVICE TO OWNER

### MANAGING CLIENT EXPECTATIONS

- Explain expected response of patient to treatment.
- Describe signs that indicate inadequate response and need for urgent re-examination.

### REASSESSMENT

When should this patient be followed up?

- Schedule patient review to assess outcome and success of treatment.

### OTHER ADVICE

- Preventive measures - Vaccination, hygiene, diet.
- Resolve underlying non-microbial causes.
- Disposal of unused medication.

