



USE OF MEDICAL TREATMENTS IN ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Guidance

Medical treatments are materials that are administered to a specific animal for short periods of time to treat a specific medical ailment. Medical treatments (except vaccines) must not be used in the absence of illness. Operators must document all medical treatments and withhold periods in herd health records, including treatments administered by a vet. All vet invoices must clearly indicate all medications administered and the animal's identification (name, number, etc.).

DEFINITIONS

- Milk discard (or "milk withhold") — the period of time after administering treatment that milk must not be represented as organic
- Meat withdrawal — the period of time after administering treatment that animal must not be slaughtered and meat represented as organic

APPROVED INPUTS

This is a list of generic materials. Brand name products containing these materials must be individually reviewed by PCO prior to use. All non-active ingredients (excipients) with a brand name product must comply with regulatory requirements. Be sure to check with us or consult a current PCO Approved Materials List, OMRI, or WSDA list prior to purchasing or using a product. PCO does not endorse any of the products listed in this guidance document. This is not an all-inclusive list and other inputs may be allowed. Please contact PCO if you have any questions on materials or restrictions.

ALLOWED SYNTHETIC TREATMENTS

The following synthetic materials may be used when preventative practices and veterinary biologics (including vaccines) are inadequate to prevent sickness.

Generic Name	Use	Restriction(s)
Aspirin	Anti-inflammatory for pain relief	None
Atropine	Antidote for poisoning by organophosphates	Milk discard: 12 days Meat withdrawal: 56 days
Butorphanol	Sedative and pain relief for surgical procedures	Must be used by or on the written or oral order of a licensed veterinarian. Milk discard: 8 days Meat withdrawal: 42 days
Chlorhexidine	Topical antiseptic and surgical scrub	Allowed for medical procedures conducted under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Allowed for use as a teat dip when alternative germicidal agents and/or physical barriers have lost their effectiveness. Prohibited for intra mammary use to kill quarters.
Generic Name	Use	Restriction(s)
Flunixin Example: Banamine	Anti-inflammatory for pain relief	Milk discard: 3 days Meat withdrawal: 8 days

Lidocaine	Local anesthetic	Milk discard: 6 days Meat withdrawal: 8 days
Oxytocin	Hormone that facilitates passing of the placenta	For post parturition therapeutic applications only. Prohibited for routine milk let-down.
Poloxalene	Non-ionic surfactant for bloat control	For emergency bloat treatment only.
Procaine	Local anesthetic	Milk discard: 6 days Meat withdrawal: 8 days
Propylene Glycol	Glucose source	Only for treatment of ketosis in ruminants
Tolazoline	Used to reverse the effects of sedation by xylazine	Must be used by or on the written order of a licensed veterinarian. Milk discard: 4 days Meat withdrawal: 8 days
Xylazine	Used as sedative during surgical procedures	Must be used by or on the written order of a licensed veterinarian. Milk discard: 4 days Meat withdrawal: 8 days

A note about injectable vitamins: If FDA-approved vitamins are administered by injection, PCO must review the brand name material prior to use to verify that all non-active ingredients comply with regulatory requirements.

ALLOWED SYNTHETIC PARASITICIDES

The following parasiticides are allowed for emergency treatment when preventive management does not prevent infestation. Prohibited for use on slaughter stock. See additional restrictions below

Generic Name	Restriction(s)
Fenbendazole	Prohibited in slaughter stock. Allowed in emergency treatment for dairy and breeder stock when organic system plan-approved preventive management does not prevent infestation. In breeder stock, treatment cannot occur during the last third of gestation if the progeny will be sold as organic and must not be used during the lactation period for breeding stock. Currently prohibited for use in poultry. Milk discard: 2 days for cattle; 36 days for goats, sheep, and other dairy species.
Moxidectin	Prohibited in slaughter stock. Allowed in emergency treatment for dairy and breeder stock when organic system plan-approved preventive management does not prevent infestation. In breeder stock, treatment cannot occur during the last third of gestation if the progeny will be sold as organic and must not be used during the lactation period for breeding stock. Milk discard: 2 days for cattle; 36 days for goats, sheep, and other dairy species.

ALLOWED NON-SYNTHETIC TREATMENTS

In general, natural materials (except for strychnine) are allowed as medical treatments without additional restriction.

- Epinephrine – Also known as adrenalin. Used to treat anaphylactic shock
- Homeopathic preparations
- Botanicals/ Herbs – Agricultural ingredients are not required to be organic when used for medicinal purposes

PROHIBITED TREATMENTS

Organic regulations prohibit withholding medical treatments from a sick animal to preserve its organic status. Appropriate medications must be used to restore an animal to health when methods acceptable to organic production fail. Livestock treated with a prohibited material must be clearly identified and documented in herd records and shall not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

- Antibiotics
- Dehorning paste
- Conventional milk replacer
- Colloidal silver and ionic silver – prohibited by FDA