MALTA

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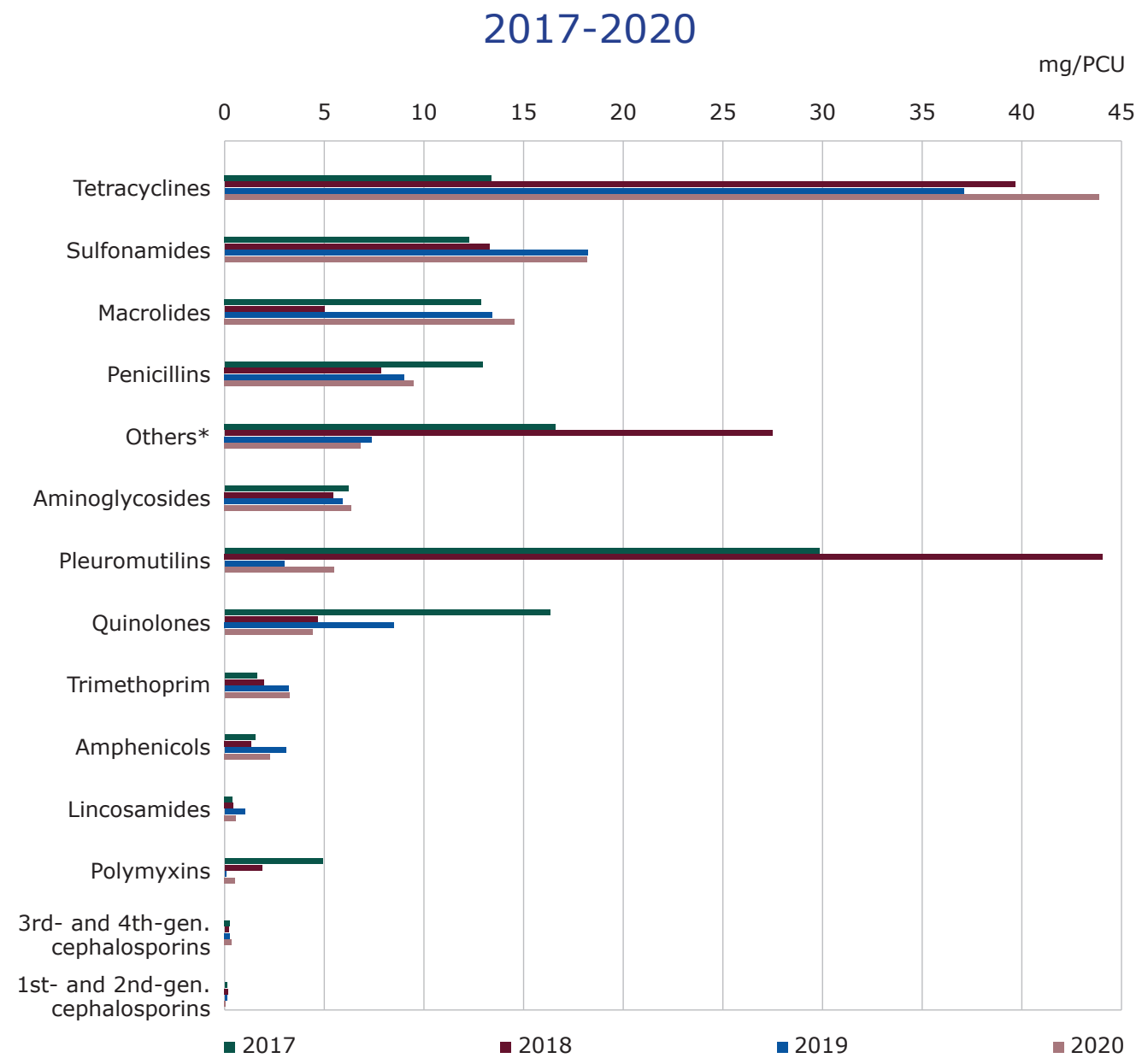
Veterinary Medicines Division

SALES TRENDS (MG/PCU) OF ANTIMICROBIAL VMPs FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS



For reasons of commercial confidentiality, sales of fluoroquinolones and other quinolones are aggregated.

* The class 'Others' includes sales of the following sub-classes: Imidazole derivatives (metronidazole), Nitrofuran derivatives (furazolidone) and Other antibacterials (bacitracin, novobiocin, rifaximin and spectinomycin). Of note is that some of the sales could be for non-food-producing animals.

In 2020, sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents were reported to ESVAC for the fourth time. Data were provided by 14 wholesalers.

A 5.3% increase in sales (mg/PCU) was observed in Malta from 2019 to 2020, but in comparison with the first year of reported sales, 2017, a 10.2% reduction was seen. Bearing in mind that overall sales in

tonnes can fluctuate from year to year, the data should be interpreted with caution as they only cover the first few years of data collection using the ESVAC template.

In 2020, total sales of antimicrobial VMPs in Malta were 116.1 mg/PCU. Tetracyclines, sulfonamides and macrolides were the highest-selling antimicrobial classes, accounting for 37.8%, 15.6% and 12.5%, respectively, of the total sales of antimicrobials (mg/PCU) for food-producing animal species, including horses.

Sales (mg/PCU) of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and polymyxins accounted for 0.3%, 3.8% and 0.45%, respectively, of total sales in Malta in 2020. In the same year, sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins were 0.35 mg/PCU and sales of polymyxins were 0.52 mg/PCU. Sales of fluoroquinolones and other quinolones cannot be reported for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Since 2012, several guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials have been published[1], including on 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones, addressed to veterinarians, pharmacists, wholesalers and qualified persons, as applicable. In 2020, Malta issued the Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in Malta 2020–2028[2]. This strategy is aligned with the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, the EU Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and national legislation. The main aims of the antimicrobial resistance strategy are to:

- strengthen the infrastructure needed to address the antimicrobial resistance situation through adequate support of the inter-sectoral coordinating mechanism, appropriate legislation and strengthening of relevant surveillance and feedback systems for human and animal health, as well as for the environment;
- foster improved awareness and education on antimicrobial resistance and the measures needed to prevent it among healthcare professionals, veterinary professionals, livestock keepers, animal owners and the public;
- introduce overarching measures to ensure appropriate antimicrobial prescribing and use in the community, hospitals and veterinary practices and in both the human and animal sectors;
- improve infection prevention and control (IPC) through national coordination and oversight and implementation of effective multi-modal IPC strategies in all healthcare facilities, and foster adherence to good hygiene standards on farms to prevent cross-transmission of animal pathogens;
- encourage and support innovation, research and networking in areas relevant to antimicrobial resistance.

[1] https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/sim.aspx
[2] https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy%20Final%20Jul%202020.pdf