

# Remote prescribing guidance extended

By Georgina Mills

THE RCVS has extended its temporary guidance allowing vets to prescribe prescription-only veterinary medicines (POM-Vs) remotely to the end of September.

The guidance was introduced in March in response to the nationwide lockdown measures in place at that time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It enabled vet practices to continue to provide the animal-owning public with veterinary services, a proportion of which was via remote means, while safeguarding the health of their teams and clients.

It is a temporary change of the supporting guidance to the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and allows vets to prescribe POM-Vs remotely, without first having physically examined the animal.

The RCVS council's Covid Taskforce first extended the guidance in June, but has now extended it further in light of the ongoing pandemic. It said it had considered a number of issues when making this decision, such as the need to continue to provide practices with flexibility in the face of possible local or national lockdowns and the need for inclusivity of those practice teams members and clients who may still be shielding.

RCVS president Mandisa Greene, who chairs the taskforce, said: 'Whilst lockdown measures have been eased and matters have improved, we are far from being back to business as usual and the threat of returning to more severe lockdown measures, whether locally or nationally, is still very much alive.'



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The taskforce has also made a small change to its Covid-19 guidance flowchart, which vet professionals can use to decide whether or not to carry out a particular type of work. It removed the words 'in the first instance' to allow more flexibility in deciding whether to consult remotely or face to face.

Greene said: 'With practices currently able to return to more routine treatments, the taskforce recognises the need for more flexibility in our temporary guidance, so that veterinary surgeons can use their professional judgement to decide what is the most suitable approach in each individual case.'

The updated flowchart, along with all the college's Covid-19 guidance, is available at: [www.rcvs.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/coronavirus) ●