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CHAPTER 6.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROLLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Article 6.1.

Objective

The purpose of chapters (6.2., 6.3., 6.4. under study) is to provide methodologies for OIE Members to appropriately address the emergence or spread of resistant bacteria from the use of antimicrobial agents in *aquatic animals* and to contain antimicrobial resistance through controlling the use of antimicrobial agents.

Antimicrobial agents are essential drugs for human and animal health and welfare. The OIE recognises the need for access to antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine: antimicrobial agents are essential for treating, controlling and preventing infectious *diseases in aquatic animals*. The OIE therefore considers that ensuring continued access to effective antimicrobial agents is a priority.

The OIE recognises that antimicrobial resistance is a global public and *aquatic animal* health concern that is influenced by the usage of antimicrobial agents in humans, *aquatic animals* and elsewhere. Those working in the human, animal and plant sectors have a shared responsibility to prevent or minimise pressures for the selection of antimicrobial resistance factors in humans and *aquatic animals*. Arising from its mandate for the protection of animal health and food safety, the OIE developed these chapters to provide guidance to Members in regard to risks in the animal sector.

The application of *risk assessment* measures should be based on international standards on microbiological *risk analysis* and supported by sound data and information when available. The methodologies provided in these chapters should be consulted as part of the standard approach to prevent and reduce antimicrobial resistance.