

AMA APPLAUDS FDA DECISION TO RESTRICT CEPHALOSPORIN USE IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

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Statement attributable to:

Peter W. Carmel, M.D.

President, American Medical Association

“ Physicians must be able to rely on proven, safe and effective medications to provide optimal care to their patients. The inappropriate use of antibiotics in animal agriculture can cause critical drugs like cephalosporin to become ineffective in humans due to the development of resistance in the very bacteria that the drugs were meant to combat.

“ Although the use of antibiotics can be effective in treating sick animals, using these drugs for unapproved uses may pose a threat to public health. The American Medical Association supports the FDA’ s decision to prohibit the use of cephalosporin in food animal production for general disease prevention. By taking this step, physicians can continue to have this class of antibiotics available to successfully fight bacterial meningitis and other serious infections.”

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