

## Unit 18: Intramammary Factsheet

### Introduction

Mastitis treatments and dry cow therapy are normally administered intramammary. In some cases of mastitis, antibiotic injections are also needed.

This session will look at the correct method of administering intramammary products.

### Cows can be treated at two different stages in lactation and in three ways:

- Lactating cow therapy
- Dry cow therapy.

### Different routes of administration

- Intramammary treatment
- Parenteral treatment (by injection)
- Oral therapy.

### What is the correct procedure for intramammary infusion?

1. Antibiotic treatments
2. Dry cow therapy
3. Non-Antibiotic dry cow therapy.

#### 1. Antibiotic treatment

- Before infusion, the udder should be milked out completely
- Teat/orifice should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a sterile alcohol wipe
- Avoid contamination of the syringe nozzle
- Break the top of the cap
- Gently insert (length depends on tube design)
- Infuse( squeeze) the total content of the syringe into the quarter
- Disperse the product by gentle massage of the teat
- Dip with iodine solution
- Monitor cow and write down details in the animal medicine book
- Observe the milk withdrawal period.

#### 2. Dry cow therapy

- Antibiotics given to cows as they dry off
- Slow release antibacterial activity
- Antibiotic kills bacteria present at drying off period
- All quarters treated
- Prevents new infections occurring during the dry period
- Procedure same as for the antibiotic treatment.

#### 3. Non-Antibiotic dry cow therapy (also known as teat sealant)

- Forms a physical barrier in the teat
- Prevents new intramammary infections throughout the dry period
- Reduces the incidence of subclinical mastitis in cows at calving

- Clean and dry teats
- Clean the end of the teat to remove any contaminated skin, dirt or manure
- Disinfect the far teats before the near teats, to avoid accidental contamination of previously disinfected teats
- Insert the teat sealant syringe nozzle into the teat canal and inject all contents
- Use one complete syringe per quarter. **Do not massage.** It must remain in the teat to be effective
- Nearest teats should be treated first to minimize contamination of teats that have not been treated
- After treating each cow, mark the cow so others can tell she has been dried off. Then dip each teat with a quality teat dip.