

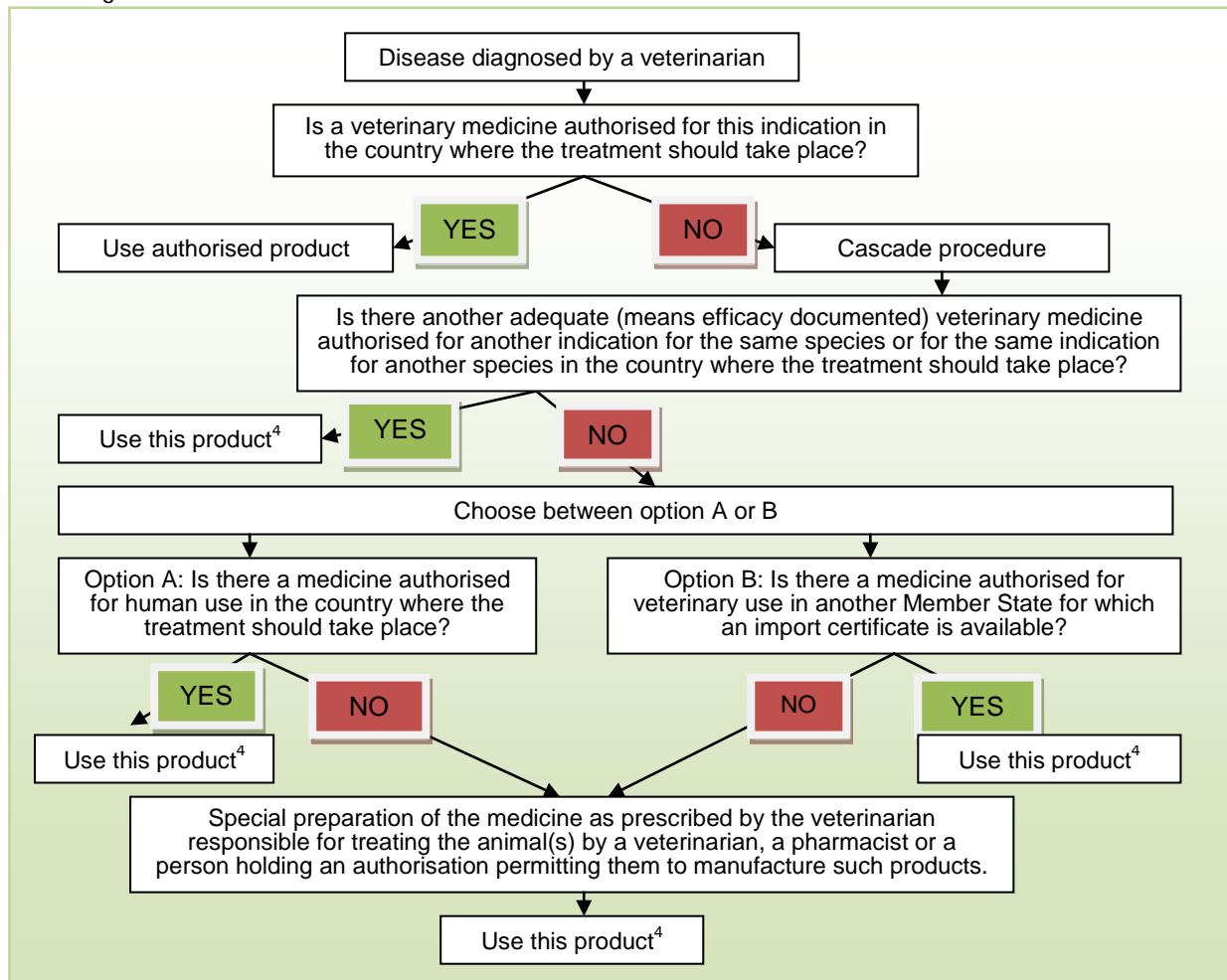
Factsheet on the cascade procedure

The Cascade is the procedure described in the European legislation on Veterinary Medicines to address situations when no medicine is authorised in the Member State for a condition affecting a (food-producing) animal. The veterinarian responsible for treating the animal(s) may use the hierarchal choice of options as described in the cascade.

This is only permitted in the event of veterinary need to avoid unacceptable animal suffering and under following and exceptional circumstances¹:

- the treatment in any particular case is restricted to animals on a single holding;
- any medicine imported from another Member State (option B) must be authorised for use in a food-producing species in the other Member State;
- the pharmacologically active substances contained in the medicine must be listed in Annex I, II or III to Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 concerning maximum residue limits;
- the veterinarian responsible for prescribing the medicine must specify an appropriate withdrawal period, following the instructions as defined²;
- the veterinarian responsible for prescribing the medicine must keep specified records, which must be retained for at least five years and made available for inspection by the competent authorities.

Only if these conditions are met, the veterinarian may make use of the cascade, as visualised in the following decision-tree³.



¹ These conditions only apply for food producing animals.

² If no withdrawal period for the medicine for use in the food-animal species concerned is available, the withdrawal period should not be less than 7 days for eggs and milk, 28 days for meat from poultry and mammals or 500 degree days for meat from fish.

³ The Small Animal Exemption Scheme additionally allows veterinarians to use a product in a different way than its recommended use if in her/his professional judgment this would provide a safer or better option for treatment.

⁴ Administration of a medicine prescribed in accordance with the cascade is only allowed by the prescribing veterinarian or by a person acting under their direction. Responsibility for the prescription and use remains with the prescribing veterinarian.