Important changes are being made to the electronic medicine book (eMB)

There are two changes to the way we record and calculate antibiotic usage data on eMB. From **26 March 2018,** there will be changes to the **weight categories** and the **units of measurement.**

These changes will allow the production systems of the UK pig industry to be reflected more closely in eMB, and to enable more accurate benchmarking of data and antibiotic use across the industry.

1. Changes to the weight category for weaner pigs

No changes will be made to the categories for sows/boars or finished (slaughter) pigs moving off your holding. There will be a slight name change to the original weaner pig category and two new categories for weaned piglets and breeding animals will be added as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of changes that will come into effect on 26 March 2018

Change	Category	Weight
Name Change	Number of weaners/growers (over 5 weeks of age) that have been moved off your holding for finishing	25kg
Added	Number of weaned piglets (up to 5 weeks of age) that have been moved off your holding for finishing	4kg
Added	Number of breeding animals (gilts and boars) that have been moved off your holding	65kg

The new categories will be reflected on the system as well as in the spreadsheet used to upload your antibiotic returns. **It is important you use the new corrected spreadsheet from 26 March.**

When uploading your data from quarter 1 of 2018 (1 January - 31 March) you will need to provide the numbers within each updated category for this period. If you use the bulk upload spreadsheet to capture the information for your return, you will need to download a new spreadsheet as soon as you can from 26 March.

If you have already started recording antibiotic usage for Q1 using an older spreadsheet, you will need to copy and paste the data from the old spreadsheet into the new one and include the number of pigs within each updated category.

2. Changes to the Unit of Measurement

The terminology used to describe the measurement of antibiotic used on your farm will be changed from mg/PCU to mg/kg. This is because from 26 March the additional categories (number of weaned piglets and number of breeder animals) will be included in the calculation and these are not part of the national PCU (see below for further details).

Adding these new categories will allow individual farms to compare themselves more accurately with similar production systems.

What you need to do now

a) *Ensure you use the new weight categories to reflect your production system when entering data on eMB*
b) *If you use the bulk upload spreadsheet, download and use the latest, updated version*

If you have any queries email Pig.Hub@ahdb.org.uk or telephone 0844 335 8400 (calls are charged 5p per minute plus your phone provider's access charge).

Explaining PCU

What is PCU?	How and what is calculated?	How is PCU used?
Population Correction Unit (PCU) is a unit of measurement created by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The calculation **estimates** a country's antibiotic use within a certain population of animals	The PCU calculates how much active ingredient of antibiotic is used per kg of bodyweight over a 1 year period. The calculation is as follows: **mg of active ingredient ÷ standardised average pig weight at time of treatment = mg/PCU**	It is used across Europe to compare year on year data on antibiotic usage and is particularly helpful for trend analysis. See http://bit.ly/2FW1mJh for further information.

As the new weight categories are not part of the standardised weights considered within the PCU calculation, the terminology mg/kg will now be used.

Using the new weight categories will increase the accuracy of the farm usage figures and make it easier to interpret when comparing benchmarking data on a national level. Please note that data provided to the VMD and government will continue to be on a PCU basis. This data will only include weight categories valid for the PCU calculation i.e. livestock sows (240kg) and slaughter pigs (65kg).