

# Remote Delivery Devices to Administer Animal Health Products

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## What are remote delivery devices?

- Devices that deliver animal health products at a distance
- Examples
  - Pneumatic dart gun
  - Stock doctor medicator
  - Medi-dart



**There are beef quality, food safety, animal welfare, and human safety concerns with their use.**

- Increased risk of injection site lesions and scars creating tough beef.
- Increased risk of violative drug residues at injection site.
- Drugs meant to go SC go IM, reducing drug effectiveness.
- Lower dose or no drug administered to animal; thus, fail to respond to treatment.
- Drug administered in non-approved site e.g., hip, rib, flank.
- Technique more painful and stressful to animal at injection site and if hit head, eyes, spine, or limbs, causing severe permanent injury.
- Increased risk of broken needles or dart imbedded in animal.
- Illegal to use with certain drugs due to human safety risks e.g., tilmicosin (Micotil™, TilcoMed®, Hymatil™).
- Illegal to administer Excede® 200 this way – must administer SC at base of ear.
- Don't weigh animal, so either underdose (drug less effective) or overdose drug (\$\$ or inaccurate drug withdrawal periods).
- Inaccurately identify animal, so increased risk of drug withdrawal issues.
- Health Canada-Veterinary Drug Directorate approval may be required to administer drug with these devices.



## When should these devices be used?



- Remote delivery devices should only be used on pasture when there are no handling facilities available and for human safety issues.
- Do not use in moving animals or if animal further than 20 feet away.
- Never use in feedlot cattle in pens.
- Never use to administer vaccines or drugs other than select antimicrobials that require only 1 treatment (dart).
- Only use to treat clinically sick individual animals.

## How best should these remote delivery devices be used to reduce animal health, welfare, beef quality, food safety, and human safety risks?

- Read and follow manufacturer's directions on how to safely use the remote delivery device.
- Select the right size of dart for the drug and animal and the right charges to reduce risk of animal injury, broken needles, and embedded darts in animal.
- Target practice using the device before using on cattle to ensure drug administered in the proper location, which is the neck area for all SC and IM injections.
- Request a prescription from your veterinarian, along with a treatment protocol to determine what antimicrobials are safest and most effective to administer to cattle with various diseases using these remote delivery devices, with the least risk of injection site lesions and drug residues.
- Keep good individual treatment records and indicate when these devices are used to administer drugs.
- Never use tilmicosin (Micotil™, TilcoMed®, Hymatil™) or Excede® 200 with these devices (extra-label, violative drug residues, human safety risk).
- Pick up and maintain remote delivery device darts/guns after use.