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### Food chain information - data based recommendations for a standardised "relevant period of time" within all EU member states

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#### Introduction

As part of the food chain information, the farmer has to inform about administered veterinary medicinal products with withdrawal periods greater than zero within a "relevant period of time" before slaughter. This time period, which is not yet defined uniformly within the EU, is fixed at seven days for all farm animal species except for broilers in Germany.

#### Methods

Within the project "Survey on the treatment of certain farm animal species (in turkeys and pigs [rearing and fattening] and fattening cattle including fattening calves) with veterinary medicinal products with regard to the food chain information, 2nd stage" (grant 2815HS008) data on the usage of veterinary medicinal products with withdrawal periods greater than zero and on the slaughter check findings have been collected and analysed from 43 German fattening pig farms.

#### Results

The "treatment-free period" and the "withdrawal free period before slaughter" have proved to be particularly meaningful for answering the question of a species specific adaptation of the "relevant period" within the food chain information according to Reg. (EU) No. 853/2004. The median for the shortest withdrawal period before slaughtering is 71 days and the 5% percentile of this shortest waiting time before slaughter is 24 days.

On the basis of these data, for fattening pigs it is recommended to maintain the "relevant period" at seven days.

#### Conclusions

The presented recommendations for the included farm animals species are an essential part of the political discourse on the definition of an EU-wide uniform "relevant period per animal species" as they were derived on the basis of data representative

for Germany and other countries with comparable agricultural structures.