SIX MOMENTS
OF VETERINARY ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIBING

1 DIAGNOSIS
Is microbial / bacterial infection highly likely?
- History & physical examination.
- Cytology.
- Specimens for laboratory testing (e.g., Gram stain, culture and susceptibility).

2 TREATMENT
Is antimicrobial treatment necessary?
What non-antimicrobial approaches should be considered?
- Fluid therapy, electrolytes, anti-inflammatory drugs, nutritional support, surgical drainage of abscess, removal of foreign body, debridement, probiotics, watchful waiting.

3 GUIDELINES
What guidelines should I review and implement for my patient?

4 ANTIMICROBIAL SELECTION
What is the most appropriate antimicrobial agent for this patient with this condition?
Consider:
- Public Health critical importance rating.
- Products available.
- Routes of administration.
- Efficacy at the target site.
- Potential drug-associated adverse effects.
- Drug interactions.
- Prior treatment history.
- Antimicrobial resistance.

5 DOSAGE REGIMEN
What dosage regimen is best for this patient?
- Formulation
- Dose
- Route
- Frequency
- Duration

6 ADVICE TO OWNER
MANAGING CLIENT EXPECTATIONS
- Explain expected response of patient to treatment.
- Describe signs that indicate inadequate response and need for urgent re-examination.

REASSESSMENT
When should this patient be followed up?
- Schedule patient review to assess outcome and success of treatment.

OTHER ADVICE
- Preventive measures - Vaccination, hygiene, diet.
- Resolve underlying non-microbial causes.
- Disposal of unused medication.