



---

# Information Sheet – Apiculture & Bee Medicine

*If you are a veterinarian interested in practising with bees, here is what you need to know.*

## Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship

- The College has granted an administrative exemption to the requirements of 33.(1)(b) of Regulation 1093 under the Veterinarians Act for the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR)

As a reference, 33.(1)(b) currently states:

33.(1) No member shall administer, dispense or prescribe a drug unless,

(b) the member has sufficient knowledge of the animal or group of animals by virtue of a history and inquiry and either physical examination of the animal or group of animals or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal or group of animals is kept to reach at least a general or preliminary diagnosis.

The exemption to this section is based on the fact that neither physical examination of the bee or regular visits to the apiary are considered essential to safe practice.

However, to satisfy this exemption and fulfill the obligations of a VCPR in bee medicine, a veterinarian must:

- Confirm the provincial registration of the beekeeper
- Confirm the number of colonies held by the beekeeper
- Confirm the production management practices of the beekeeper
- Confirm the standard operating procedure/protocol for use in a disease requiring an antimicrobial drug
- A veterinarian must still be available to the client in case of an adverse reaction

## Prescribing and Dispensing

Within a valid VCPR, established via the approved administrative exemption, a veterinarian may prescribe and dispense drugs. Nothing precludes a veterinarian from requesting to visit an apiary prior to prescribing, if circumstances exist that warrant the concern or question.

## Accreditation

While bees are considered a food animal, bee medicine will be permitted to be practiced from any type of accredited facility.

**Professional Practice Standards:** Every veterinarian, regardless of scope of practice, is expected to meet the established standards of practice of the profession.

## Additional Resources:

Stay tuned for links to relevant education opportunities.