

HEPTAVAC® P Plus - LIMITED OR UNAVAILABLE STOCK SITUATION

Alternative products are available which contain similar components to Heptavac P Plus, speak to your vet or RAMA about which are most suitable for your flock situation:

	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type C: Struck	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type D: Pulp kidney	<i>Clostridium septicum</i> Braxy	<i>Clostridium chauvoei</i> : Blackleg, metritis	<i>Clostridium novyi</i> type B: Black disease	<i>Clostridium haemolyticum</i> : Bacterial red water	<i>Clostridium tetani</i> : Tetanus	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type B: Lamb dysentery	<i>Clostridium sordellii</i> : Abomasitis, toxæmia malignant oedema, metritis	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> type A: Enterotoxaemia	<i>Mannheimia haemolytica</i> , <i>Pasteurella trellosi</i> Pasteurellosis
Bravoxin sheep & cattle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Heptavac-P plus sheep	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
Ovivac-P plus sheep		✓	✓	✓			✓				✓
Ovipast plus sheep											✓

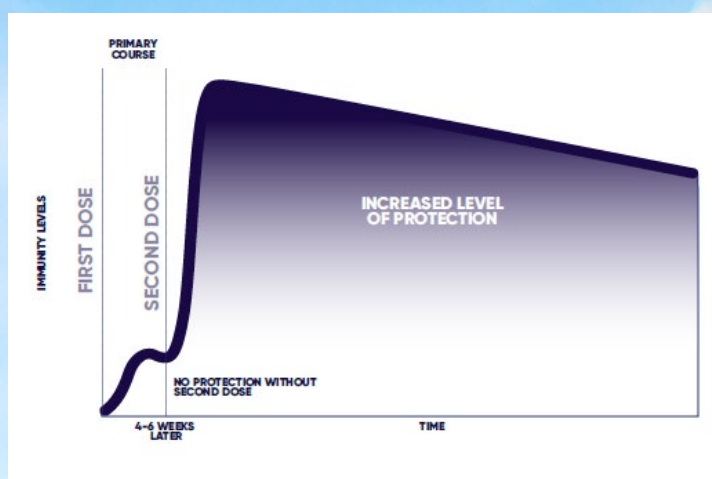
In addition, Zoetis make clostridial vaccines Covexin 8 and Covexin 10

If no alternatives can be sourced:

Pregnant ewes should be prioritised, particularly first-time lambers and gimmers. These need a dose of Clostridial/Pasteurella vaccine (containing a lamb dysentery component) 4-6 weeks prior to lambing, this will protect the ewe directly and the lamb indirectly through Maternally-Derived Antibodies (MDA) in colostrum.

If the pregnancy booster is delayed and given to the ewes later than the 4-6 week period prior to lambing, be aware this will protect the ewe, however will provide a limited or unknown level of protection to the lamb via colostrum. Also consider the stress of gathering ewes very close to pregnancy, which can predispose to miscarriages.

New-born lambs should be prioritised as much as possible. Lambs need a dose of Clostridial/Pasteurella vaccine from 2-3 weeks of age and another 4-6 weeks later.



Heptavac P Plus is recommended for lambs being kept as replacements, however in a low stock situation, another vaccine could be used such as Ovivac P Plus or Bravoxin. Any sheep which are then kept and used for breeding in subsequent years will need a full primary course of Heptavac P Plus in pregnancy.

Rams should be fully vaccinated including yearly boosters due to the higher cost of these animals, Ovivac P Plus or Bravoxin can be used in the absence of Heptavac P Plus.

Animals which are not able to be vaccinated will be at risk. Older animals are likely to have increased natural immunity compared to younger animals. Certain strategies can be employed to try and manage the risk:

- **Reduce stress**– stress predisposes to both Clostridial and Pasteurella disease. Stress can be caused by gathering, handling, administering products or medications, mixing groups, moving, sudden weather changes, worrying with dogs etc.
- **Good nutrition** – animals should be in good body condition without being fat. Sudden changes in nutrition can predispose to the disease so make any changes gradually.
- **Avoid fields/situations where sheep have succumbed to clostridial or Pasteurella disease in the past** – some clostridial bacteria live in the soil and seem to be more associated with certain fields. Disturbed soil can increase the risk so avoid groundworks etc. in fields. Moving sheep onto sugar beet or other fodder crop in autumn is also associated with increased disease risk.
- **Ensuring animals are fit and healthy** – by making sure they are worm-free, lameness is under control, fluke is managed where this is a risk, and that they are not suffering from any other diseases which can bring down their immune resilience (e.g., MV, Johnes, CLA, Orf, OPA).
- **Excellent hygiene** – at lambing time, all equipment and personnel should be scrupulously clean, lamb navels must be dipped, tagging, docking and castrating must be done to the highest standard.
- **Excellent colostrum management** – lambs must receive 200ml/kg colostrum in the first 24 hours of life and 200ml must be given in the first 2-4 hours.
- **Manage the environment** – if the animals are indoors; clean bedding, replaced regularly, plenty of clean, fresh water, sufficient nutrition which is easy to access, not crowded, good ventilation, dry underfoot conditions. If sheep are outside; make sure the fencing is a good standard and the grass is not being eaten down to bare soil – provide supplementary nutrition if required.
- **Manage trace elements** – blood testing can be undertaken to identify deficiencies and supplements can be provided.

Things you should not do:

- Use a half dose of vaccine – this will not provide protection
- Miss the second dose of the primary course – the animal will not be protected

Once vaccines becomes available again, sheep which have not received a primary course of 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart, or those which had an interval of >12 months between booster doses should be restarted on the primary course for full protection.

Heptavac® P Plus contains antigens from 7 clostridial species and antigens from the most important serotypes of *Mannheimia (Pasteurella) haemolytica* and *Bibersteinia (Pasteurella) trehalosi* and is indicated for the active immunisation of sheep against disease associated with infections caused by these bacteria. Legal category **POM-VPS**. Ovivac® P Plus contains antigens from 4 clostridial species and antigens from the most important serotypes of *Mannheimia (Pasteurella) haemolytica* and *Bibersteinia (Pasteurella) trehalosi* and is indicated for the active immunisation of sheep against disease associated with infections caused by these bacteria. Legal category **POM-VPS**. Bravoxin® contains toxoids of *C. perfringens* type A, B, C and D, *C. chauvoei* whole culture, *C. septicum*, *C. haemolyticum*, *C. novyi* type B, *C. sordellii* and *C. tetani*. Legal category **POM-VPS**.

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Further information is available from the SPC, Datasheet or package leaflet. MSD Animal Health UK Ltd, Registered office Walton Manor, Walton, Milton Keynes MK7 7AJ, UK. Tel. 01908 685685, Registered in England & Wales no. 946942. Advice should be sought from the medicine prescriber.

Use Medicines Responsibly.

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