

**Nosodes**  
**ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE**  
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**A SHORT ACCOUNT OF NOSODES**

Nosodes are remedies made from disease material, whether tissues, discharges, secretions. They are not to be confused with '[sarcodes](#)', which are remedies made from healthy tissue. Nosodes have many uses.

- They are widely used in homeopathic practice to help treat cases of infectious diseases. At the AVMC, we do not treat infectious disease solely in this way, as we do not believe it is either the quickest or the most effective or the safest way (proper and diligent homeopathic prescribing for each patient, on the basis of signs and symptoms, is both the safest and most effective treatment). We certainly do not use nosodes in the acute phase of a dangerous infectious disease but they can have an important role in helping during the recovery phase. There are nosodes for most infectious diseases of animals; at the AVMC, we have many unique nosodes of this type. Use of nosodes in this way is referred to as [isopathy](#), rather than homeopathy.
- Nosodes can have [homeopathic](#) therapeutic properties in their own right. Such nosodes are found in the homeopathic materia medica and have undergone a proper 'proving'. Examples are *Bacillinum*, *Carcinosin*, *Medorrhinum*, *Psorinum*, *Tuberculinum*.
- They are often used in farm situations, to limit the spread and the effects of infectious diseases. This has especially been used as a vital component of mastitis control on many farms, both organic and conventional. [Clinical trial work](#), carried out by the AVMC, has demonstrated the efficacy of this application.
- They can be used in the prevention of infectious diseases (see paper: [Nosodes for Protection](#)), in the manner of vaccination (but quite unlike it in reality). A clinical trial on [kennel cough prevention](#) was performed by the AVMC.

## *Nosodes - AVMC*

- There are the so-called 'bowel nosodes', which are classified with nosodes but arguably are not actual nosodes, according to the strict definition. These are related to certain groups of homeopathic remedies and may be used in their own right or as a useful adjunct to one of the related remedies. Their use is not confined to bowel disorders, despite the name. They can be used in treatment of more complex cases, in which homeopathy alone has not achieved the desired result.
- Nosodes can be made for an individual patient, from that patient's own disease material ('autonosode') or from another animal in a group for treatment of that group ('isonosode'). They can be derived from another animal altogether, for 'off the shelf' use ('general nosode'). They can be made from laboratory culture of pathogenic organisms ('petri nosode'). They can be made from vaccines ('vaccine nosode') - this latter is not a method advocated by the AVMC, except, perhaps, to help in the treatment of a vaccine-related disease.

The use of nosodes is a specialist area, not without its dangers, so it is recommended that they should only be used only on the advice of a properly qualified veterinary surgeon.

The AVMC does not set out to treat or to prevent any of the UK's '[Notifiable Diseases](#)', without the express permission of DEFRA.

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