



## Client Information Leaflet

Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again. Please ask your vet if you have any further questions.

This medicine has been prescribed for your horse ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same and could result in inadvertent contravention of Horse Passport legislation.

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### Specials Veterinary Medicine

This medicine has been prescribed, or given, for your horse or donkey. Medicines that are licensed for use in horses have undergone rigorous testing to ensure that an effective and safe dose is used. However, there is a wealth of experience in the veterinary profession in using medicines that may not have undergone this testing that may be appropriate in certain clinical conditions. The medicine described are referred to as Veterinary Special Medicines, or as Extemporaneously prepared medicines. These may have been formulated by a compounding pharmacist (usually in a human hospital), your veterinary surgeon, or a veterinary specials manufacturer

#### What is a special veterinary medicine?

Specials are medicines that are produced from raw compounds that can be useful in providing medicines that would otherwise not be available in any species from licensed medicines or can be used to create a unique formulation such as a concentration that is more suitable for use in horses, or presented in a way so that medicating your horse is easier (eg a paste).

**Are special veterinary medicines as safe as traditional medicines?** Specials manufacturers in the UK are strictly regulated and work under strict hygiene controls to ensure the purity and safety of the product that has been produced. These facilities are inspected by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and meet GLP standards.

The purity of the product is assured by testing procedures and the sterility of intravenous products validated prior to sale.

However, the clinical use of these medicines has not undergone the same rigorous testing procedures to ensure they work in a given condition or to understand all of the side effects. Any complications or side effects are therefore a feature of the medication alone. In most cases the medicines being formulated are those for which the veterinary profession has a wealth of experience in using, and therefore the clinical aspects of these is well understood. Your veterinary surgeon will inform you of known risks associated with each specific medicine.

#### Are special veterinary medicines allowed to be used?

The veterinary medicines regulations allow the use of veterinary specials if there is no suitable alternative for treating a particular condition under the 'prescribing cascade'. Specials are not a cheap alternative to licensed medicines, and are only provided where there is a clear need

**How should I store and handle this medicine?** For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children. Any special storage requirements will be detailed on the package Please wash your hands after handling this product or wear gloves when administering it to your horse.

**What should I do if I run out of this medicine?** Usually your vet will dispense the correct amount of the product. If you run out, you should contact your veterinary surgeon to complete the course as soon as possible.

**What should I do if I accidentally overdose my horse?** Contact your vet who will discuss the risks and any action that is required.

**What should I do if I miss a dose?** If a dose is missed just give the next dose at the normal time. DO NOT give a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

**If my horse is not improving what should I do?** Contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is the correct drug for your horse.

**Can my horse take these medicines along with other medicines?** Tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines.

#### What do I need to record in my horse's passport?

This medicine is not authorised for use in horses intended for human consumption. Unless specifically told otherwise, section IX of your horse's passport must be signed to ensure it is permanently excluded from the human food chain.



The prescribing cascade: This medicine is authorised for use in human patients or other animal species and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. Your vet can explain this in further detail and explain why they are prescribing this drug for your horse. If you do not agree to the use of this medicine in your horse you should discuss this before administration.