

ANNEX VI

GUIDE TO THE USE & AUTHORISATION OF VETERINARY TREATMENT DURING AN FEI EVENT

Medication of horses under FEI rules is strictly controlled and will only be authorised if the appropriate medication forms have been completed and signed. The FEI Veterinary Committee has produced the following guidance for veterinarians, Persons Responsible and officials. It is not possible to provide specific examples for all eventualities and therefore final judgement will rest on the opinion of the Veterinary Commission/Delegate, bearing in mind that the welfare of the horse must be considered paramount at all times.

- Form 1** Authorisation for **Emergency Treatment** (i.e. involving medication with Prohibited Substances)
- Form 2** Declaration for administration of **altrenogest** (e.g. Regumate) to mares competing in FEI competitions
- Form 3** Authorisation for the use of **Medication not on the Prohibited Substances** list (i.e. rehydration fluids and antibiotics).
- Form 4** Application Form for **Elective Testing**

After completing and signing these forms the Veterinary Commission/Delegate should give the provider of treatment (i.e. team or treating veterinarian, physiotherapist etc.) a copy of the medication form which can then be shown to FEI Stewards if necessary. These forms are only valid for the one event the horse is competing in.

NB: It is usual for a Ground Jury to select for testing horses that have received medication.

Medication Form 1. Authorisation for Emergency Treatment involving medication with Prohibited Substances

1. Type of medication that can be authorised

The use of a Prohibited Substance can only be authorised for treatment during an event in exceptional circumstances (GR Art 146.3 and VR Arts. 1006.7 & 8, and 1009.9). For example, this might include the use of a local anaesthetic to suture a small laceration. However, intra-articular injections, the administration of agents with multi-systemic effects, the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or conditions requiring repeated treatments **will not be authorised**. If such medication is required on clinical grounds the horse must first be withdrawn from the competition so that the necessary treatment can be given.

2. Consultation with veterinary officials

The Veterinary Commission/Delegate must always be consulted if medication is required for a horse competing under FEI Rules. The decision as to whether the condition is minor and whether the medication requested will unfairly affect the horse's performance will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The Veterinary Commission/Delegate will be required to use clinical judgement in assessing the condition, the proposed treatment and the fitness of the horse to continue in the competition. A second opinion should be sought if necessary. After proper consideration the form must be completed, signed by the Veterinary Commission/Delegate and counter-signed by the President of the Ground Jury. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (see below) the form must always be signed **before** any medication is given to the horse.

3. Authorisation after withdrawal from competition

Form 1 must always be completed when a prohibited substance is to be given to a horse at an FEI event, **even if it has been officially withdrawn**. As long as the horse remains at the event site it falls within the FEI regulations. However, although it is not necessary to obtain the signature of the Ground Jury President once the horse has been withdrawn from the competition, a member of the Veterinary Commission or the Veterinary Delegate **must** always sign the form.

4. Authorisation before the start of competition

Form 1 may also be used for retrospective authorisation of medication given **before** the start of the event providing such medication will not affect the horse's performance by the time it is due to compete. In principle horses should not be treated with a Prohibited Substance before competition if the substance or its metabolites are likely to be detectable once the horse is under FEI rules. However, there may be some circumstances (e.g. during transport, mild spasmodic colic) when medication is deemed appropriate on veterinary grounds. On such occasions the treating veterinarian must provide a signed statement describing the substance administered, the dose, time and route of administration and the reason for treatment. The Veterinary Commission/Delegate will need to consider carefully whether the time lag between treatment and competition could give the horse an unfair advantage and must advise the Ground Jury accordingly. Information on withdrawal times for a number of substances can be obtained from the Veterinary Department.

Medication Form 2. Declaration for administration of altrenogest (e.g. Regumate) to mares competing in FEI competitions

The use of altrenogest (Regumate) is currently permitted by the FEI for mares with an oestrus-related behavioural problem. The following conditions apply:

1. Authorisation of Regumate treatment is only permitted for mares with an oestrus-related behavioural problem.
2. The dose and duration of treatment must be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. A Medication Form 2 must be completed by a veterinarian and submitted to the Veterinary Delegate/Commission before the start of the event.

The rule to permit the use of altrenogest will be annually reviewed by the FEI.

Medication Form 3. Authorisation for the use of Medication not on the list of Prohibited Substances (i.e. rehydration fluids and antibiotics).

For permission to administer these substances by injection, naso-gastric tube or nebulisation (i.e. with saline only) it is necessary to complete Medication Form 3. This form requires the authorisation of the Veterinary Commission/Delegate who, in the case of electrolytes/fluids, will be requested to make an assessment of the climatic conditions and in all cases the fitness of the horse concerned prior to authorisation. The form does not need to be countersigned by the President of the Ground Jury.

1. It is important to note that:

1. Authorisation for administration of these substances is not a right and always requires the prior approval of the veterinary official.
2. Requests for small volumes of rehydration fluids (e.g. 1-5 litres), which have no clinical justification, are unlikely to be approved.
3. Samples of the rehydration/recovery medication may be taken for control for prohibited substances.
4. Treatment of horses suffering from gastric ulceration by the oral administration of ranitidine, cimetidine or omeprazole is currently permitted under FEI rules. Medication Form 1 does not need to be completed.
5. Permission for rehydration fluid administration should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis

Medication Form 4. Application Form for Elective Testing

For the substances listed under VR Annex V, appendix 1, it is possible to have a horse tested after treatment, prior to a competition in which the horse is scheduled to participate. Medication Form 4 is to be used and the laboratory must be informed, through Form 4, of the exact substances that were administered.