



## 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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### Injectable Omeprazole

This medicine has been prescribed, or given, for your horse or pony and is not a licensed veterinary medicine. As a special veterinary medicine, its use is allowed following the prescribing cascade.

**What is injectable omeprazole?** Omeprazole belongs to the class of drugs known as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs). PPIs are used to treat gastric disease and work by suppressing production of stomach acid. Injectable omeprazole has a prolonged duration of action that means that it suppresses acid production for 5-7 days

**Why has my horse been prescribed injectable omeprazole?** Injectable omeprazole can be used in a variety of clinical scenarios. These most commonly include:

The treatment of Equine Squamous Gastric Disease. Oral omeprazole is licensed for the treatment of gastric ulcers in horses. There may be specific clinical reasons why the injectable formulation is being used to treat this condition in your horse, such as treatment failure using licensed oral omeprazole or patient factors that prevent appropriate administration to your horse.

The treatment of Equine Glandular Gastric Disease. This is a non-ulcerative condition that typically affects the pyloric region of the stomach, for which there are no licensed veterinary medicines for use in the horse. Injectable omeprazole has been identified as one of three potential treatment modalities in this condition in the current UK consensus statement for the management of this condition.

**Is this medicine safe?** Injectable omeprazole is a 'Special Veterinary Medicine' that does not have a license (marketing authorisation) for use in any species. Specials Veterinary Medicines are produced from raw compounds and can be useful in providing unique formulations of medicines for horses. The manufacturer is regulated in the UK by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to ensure strict hygiene controls and testing regimens to confirm the purity and safety of the products. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations allow the use of Special Veterinary Medicines if there is no suitable alternative under the prescribing cascade.

Licensed veterinary medicines undergo rigorous testing that determine the effectiveness against the specific conditions and to fully understand all the side effects. Special Veterinary Medicines have not been subjected to the same testing, however vets have considerable experience of the use of omeprazole and therefore understand its safety and efficacy very well. By consenting to the use of this medicine you accept that complications may occur and may not be fully predicted.

**What side effects can occur with injectable omeprazole?** Side effects are uncommon. The most common problem seen with this medicine is short-term local pain or swelling at the injection site. If this occurs, please contact your vet as a short duration of pain relief may be beneficial. No side effects of omeprazole are documented in the horse.

**How is this medicine administered?** This medicine is usually administered by injection, into the gluteal muscles, on a weekly basis. This injection will normally be administered by your veterinary surgeon who may elect to use alternative injection sites in specific cases. If you are administering the injection yourself, you should follow your veterinary surgeon's guidance about injection sites.

**How should this medicine be stored?** As with all veterinary medicines, this should be stored out of reach of children. It should be stored at room temperature and NOT refrigerated. Warm in your hands to body temperature before administration.

**Can I compete my horse while it is being treated with injectable omeprazole??** Racehorses cannot compete with detectable amounts of this medicine in their circulation. Given its prolonged duration of action, a considerable withdrawal period of several weeks should be observed. Currently the exact period is not known so it is vital that this is discussed with your veterinary surgeon. Omeprazole is not a prohibited

substance for horses competing under FEI regulations, however it is only the oral formulation that is specifically listed as permitted and therefore appropriate treatment forms should be completed.

**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. This will likely involve examining your horse's stomach with a gastroscope.

**Can my horse take these medicines along with other medicines?** Tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines. There are few incompatibilities between omeprazole and other medicines.

**What do I need to record in my horse's passport?** Omeprazole is permitted in food producing horses and therefore there are no specific requirements to amend your horse's passport.



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.