

GEM EQUINE



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.

While BEVA have made every effort in preparing this information leaflet, the contents and any statements are made in good faith purely for general guidance and cannot be regarded as substitute for professional advice. The publishers, contributors and BEVA do not take responsibility for the information provided on this leaflet and hence do not accept any liability for loss or expense incurred (by you or persons that you disseminate the materials to) as a result of relying on content in this leaflet. To this end, you are advised to consult your vet and seek his/her professional advice before taking any steps set out in this leaflet. If you are a vet, you must not rely on the contents in this leaflet without independently verifying the correctness and veracity of the contents.

Chloramphenicol

This medicine has been prescribed or given for your horse or donkey. It is not a licensed medicine and is provided as a 'Special Veterinary Medicine' meaning that it has been formulated under strict production controls to ensure purity of the product.

What is Chloramphenicol?

Chloramphenicol is a broad spectrum antibiotic medicine. It is used to treat infections in horses, often where other antibiotics have been ineffective.

Why has my horse been prescribed chloramphenicol? Chloramphenicol is used to treat bacterial infections of the eye, lungs, abdomen or other sites. It is particularly effective in treating anaerobic bacteria and abscesses where other antibiotics struggle to penetrate to the site of infection.

How should I store and handle Chloramphenicol? For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children. There are no special storage requirements.

Important Safety Information

Rarely humans who are exposed to chloramphenicol develop aplastic anemia that can cause permanent damage to the bone marrow and is not reversible. For this reason, gloves **MUST** be worn when handling this medicine and you must wash your hands thoroughly after administration. Wash any spilt medicine from your horse or its environment while still wearing gloves. It must be used with care. If you have any specific concerns about using this medicine you should discuss that with your veterinary surgeon **BEFORE** administering any of this medicine.

What should I do if I run out of chloramphenicol? Usually your veterinary surgeon 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 veterinary surgeon. Large doses can cause severe diarrhoea that can be fatal in exceptional cases.

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 better, what should I do with the remaining medicine? As with all antibiotics, it is important that the full course of antibiotics is completed. Stopping early may leave some bacteria present at the site of infection that will re-grow, leading to recurrence of disease that may be less susceptible (resistant) to this or other antibiotics.

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 chloramphenicol 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. You must sign section IX of your horse's passport to permanently exclude it from the human food chain.

What are the possible side effects of chloramphenicol in my horse?

Some horses will go off their food. Refrigerating the medicine may improve palatability. If your horse stops eating completely or becomes depressed, you should **contact your veterinary surgeon**

immediately and stop administering the product.

Occasionally horses will develop diarrhoea. This can occur with ANY antibiotic and is not unique to chloramphenicol. If this occurs, you should **contact your veterinary surgeon immediately and stop administering the product.**

What should I do if a person accidentally takes this medicine? If a person accidentally takes this medicine, you should contact NHS direct (telephone 111) or take the person to a local hospital taking this leaflet and the bottle with you



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.