BEVA

## 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.

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.

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# Cabergoline Injection

This medicine is not licensed for use in the 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 cabergoline injection?**
Cabergoline stimulates dopaminergic nerve receptors in the brain and other organs.

**Why has my horse been prescribed cabergoline?**
Cabergoline reduces the activity of the pars intermedia in the pituitary gland. It is used to treat pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction in horses (PPID or "Cushing's disease"). PPID develops when the normal dopaminergic nerve supply to the pars intermedia is lost and cabergoline is administered to reverse these changes in order to reduce the clinical signs of PPID.

**How is the medication administered?** Cabergoline is administered as a long-acting injection at weekly intervals. The treatment interval and dose varies between horses and you should follow the advice of your veterinary surgeon on how and when to give injections.

**Is this medicine safe?**
Cabergoline 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.

**Can my horse have cabergoline along with other medicines?**
Cabergoline can have interactions with other medicines so you must inform your veterinary surgeon if you are administering any other medications.

**What should I do if I run out of cabergoline?** Contact your veterinary surgeon (ideally before you run out of medicine) to check if further treatment is required.

**If my horse is not improving, what should I do?** If you do not feel that your horse's condition is improving, then you should contact your veterinary surgeon who will review the dose and dosing interval.

**What are the possible side-effects of cabergoline in my horse?** Cabergoline can cause loss of appetite or dullness. This is normally short-lived and can often be controlled by reducing the dose of the drug. If your horse develops these signs, then you should contact your veterinary surgeon.

**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 medication with you.

**How should I store and handle cabergoline?**
This medication should be stored in a cool, dry space away from direct sunlight. You should wear gloves when handling the medication.

**What should I do if I accidentally overdose my horse?** If you are concerned that you have administered an overdose, then you should contact your veterinary surgeon.

**What should I do if I miss a dose?** Just restart the medicine and make a note so that you can inform your veterinary surgeon of any missed doses when they re-evaluate your horse.

**What do I need to record in my horse's passport?**
**You should record the use of this medication in your horse's passport or sign section IX to permanently exclude the horse 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.