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.

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Nebulised Clenbuterol

This medicine is not licensed for use in a nebuliser but is intended for intravenous use. It is used by a different route under the prescribing cascade. The active drug, clenbuterol, has the trade name Ventipulmin.

What is inhaled clenbuterol?
Clenbuterol is a drug that relaxes and opens the lower airways.

Why has my horse been prescribed inhaled clenbuterol?
This medication is used in a nebuliser device to help open up airways that are constricted as a result of equine asthma or other respiratory diseases. This improves breathing and allows more oxygen to enter the bloodstream. Clenbuterol may be used to open the airways prior to the administration of other medications such as steroids.

How is the medication administered? Clenbuterol is a solution for injection but can be nebulized in order to get the drug directly into the lower airways. The medicine is typically mixed with saline and nebulized using devices specifically designed for horses.

Can my horse have inhaled clenbuterol along with other medicines? Clenbuterol is frequently used alongside other medications in the treatment of equine asthma. However, the drug 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 inhaled clenbuterol?
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 breathing is improving, then you should contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is the correct medication for your horse.

What are the possible side-effects of inhaled clenbuterol in my horse?
When this medicine is given via a nebulizer the risk of side-effects is very low, but the drug can cause negative effects on heart and lung function. If you have any concerns, 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 clenbuterol? 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. If your horse's breathing deteriorates then you should contact your veterinary surgeon.

If my horse is better, what should I do with the remaining medicine? If you feel your horse no longer requires the medication, then you should discuss this with your veterinary surgeon. If you have surplus medicine, then your veterinary surgeon may advise that you store it appropriately in case your horse requires it again.

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.