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## **IMPORTANT THOROUGHBRED HORSEMEN, VET AND OWNER NOTICE**

December 3, 2014

The New York State Gaming Commission has adopted 24 national drug thresholds that will become effective January 1, 2015.

### **METHYLPREDNISOLONE ACETATE (Depo-Medrol®)**

The new threshold for methylprednisolone acetate (Depo-Medrol®) can be exceeded by administrations performed weeks or even months earlier. For example:

- An IM administration of Depo-Medrol could cause a post-race violation for **99 days**
- Some joint injections of Depo-Medrol might cause a violation for **50 days** or more
- Other administrations of Depo-Medrol may cause a violation within **7 days**

Therefore, **effective immediately, Depo-Medrol should not be administered to any horse that a trainer wishes to race in New York.** Horses will have to meet the new national threshold of 100 pg/ml on race day beginning on January 1, 2015.

Beginning January 1, 2015, any horse that is treated with Depo-Medrol will not be eligible to race until the horse, at the trainer's expense, tests below the new regulatory threshold of (100 pg/ml) and is released to race by the stewards.

### **CORTICOSTEROIDS & FLUNIXIN (Banamine®)**

The Commission also adopted new restrictions on the use of corticosteroids and Flunixin, effective January 1, 2015:

- Three corticosteroids will no longer be permitted for any use **except a joint injection**:
  - Betamethasone
  - Any formulation of methylprednisolone
  - Any formulation of triamcinolone
- Only two corticosteroids will be permitted **for systemic use** (not a joint injection) within seven and until five days before a horse's next race:
  - Dexamethasone
  - Prednisolone
- All other corticosteroids are permissible until seven days before a horse's next race.
- Flunixin (Banamine®) will be permitted only **48 hours** or more before racing

### **EQUINE STEROID ADMINISTRATION LOG**

**As required by Commission Rule 4043.4(b), all trainers and veterinarians must maintain complete and accurate veterinary records of every corticosteroid injection and report corticosteroid joint injections using the Equine Steroid Administration Log ("ESAL") at <http://esal.gaming.ny.gov/>.**

## **THRESHOLDS (new rule)**

Effective January 1, 2015, these new and amended rules will read as follows:

### *Per Se Thresholds:*

Section 4043.3 (“Other prohibitions”) of 9 NYCRR will be renumbered Section 4043.13.

A new Section 4043.3 will be added to Part 4043 of 9 NYCRR:

Section 4043.3. Equine drug thresholds; per se

(a) A horse shall have raced in violation of this section if any of the following substances is found, by the laboratory conducting tests for the commission, to be present in a race-day urine or blood sample taken from such horse at a concentration in excess of a threshold listed below. The test result of such laboratory shall include an assessment of the measurement uncertainty and imprecision of the quantitative threshold for the substance.

- (1) Acepromazine: 10 ng/ml HEPS in urine;
- (2) Betamethasone: 10 pg/ml in plasma;
- (3) Butorphanol:
  - (i) 300 ng/ml of total butorphanol in urine; or
  - (ii) 2 ng/ml of free butorphanol in plasma;
- (4) Clenbuterol:
  - (i) 140 pg/ml in urine; or
  - (ii) any clenbuterol in plasma;
- (5) Dantrolene: 100 pg/ml of 5-hydroxydantrolene in plasma;
- (6) Detomidine:
  - (i) 1 ng/ml of any metabolite of detomidine in urine; or
  - (ii) any detomidine in plasma;
- (7) Dexamethasone: 5 pg/ml in plasma;
- (8) Diclofenac: 5 ng/ml in plasma;

- (9) DMSO: 10 mcg/ml in plasma;
- (10) Firocoxib: 20 ng/ml in plasma;
- (11) Flunixin: 20 ng/ml in plasma;
- (12) Furosemide: 100 ng/ml in plasma and a specific gravity of urine less than 1.010;
- (13) Glycopyrrolate: 3 pg/ml in plasma;
- (14) Ketoprofen: 10 ng/ml in plasma;
- (15) Lidocaine: 20 pg/ml of total 3-hydroxylidocaine in plasma;
- (16) Mepivacaine:
  - (i) 10 ng/ml of total hydroxymepivacaine in urine; or
  - (ii) any hydroxymepivacaine in plasma;
- (17) Methocarbamol: 1 ng/ml in plasma;
- (18) Methylprednisolone: 100 pg/ml in plasma;
- (19) Omeprazole: 1 ng/ml of omeprazole sulfide in urine;
- (20) Phenylbutazone: 2 mcg/ml in plasma;
- (21) Prednisolone: 1 ng/ml in plasma;
- (22) Procaine penicillin: 25 ng/ml of procaine in plasma;
- (23) Triamcinolone acetonide: 100 pg/ml in plasma; and
- (24) Xylazine: 10 pg/ml of total xylazine and its metabolites in plasma.

(b) A laboratory finding that a horse has not exceeded a threshold set forth in this section shall not constitute a defense to a violation of any other section of this subchapter.

#### **RESTRICTED TIME PERIODS (amended and new rules)**

*Restricted Time Period for Flunixin (Banamine®)*

Subdivision (d) of Section 4043.2 of 9 NYCRR will be repealed.

Subdivision (e) of Section 4043.2 of 9 NYCRR will be amended to read:

(e) The following substances are permitted to be administered by any means until 48 hours before the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete:

\* \* \*

(14) the following nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): flunixin (e.g., Banamine), ketoprofen (e.g., Orudis), meclofenamic acid (e.g., Arquel), naproxen (e.g., Naprosyn, Equiproxen), and phenylbutazone (e.g., Butazolidin).

\* \* \*

None of these substances may be administered within 48 hours of the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete. In this regard, substances ingested by a horse shall be deemed administered at the time of eating and drinking. It shall be part of the trainer's responsibility to prevent such ingestion within such 48 hours.

*Restricting Systemic Corticosteroids to Only Dexamethasone and Prednisolone, and Limiting Betamethasone and Formulations of Methylprednisolone and Triamcinolone to Only Joint Injections:*

Subdivision (i) of Section 4043.2 will be amended to read:

(i) In addition, a horse may not race for the following periods of time:

(1) for at least five days following a systemic administration of prednisolone or dexamethasone;

(2) for at least seven days following a joint injection of any corticosteroid; and the following corticosteroids may be administered only by means of a joint injection: betamethasone, any formulation of methylprednisolone and any formulation of triamcinolone; and

\* \* \*

*Use Restriction for Methylprednisolone Acetate ("Depo-Medrol"):*

A new subdivision (k) will be added to Section 4043.2 as follows:

(k) A horse may not race after an administration of methylprednisolone acetate unless such horse subsequently tests below the threshold set forth in section 4043.3 of this Part for such drug in a test conducted by or for the commission at the sole expense of the trainer of the horse, and is released to race by the stewards.

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