

ADVISORY

To: All New York Licensed Trainers and Veterinarians
From: Dr. Scott E. Palmer, Equine Medical Director
Date: December 30, 2022

On December 20, 2022, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Zycosan (pentosan polysulfate sodium injection) “for control of clinical signs associated with osteoarthritis in horses.” <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/cvm-updates/fda-approves-first-injectable-pentosan-osteoarthritis-horses>. Zycosan is the first injectable form of Pentosan to be approved for use in the horse by the FDA.

ZYCOSAN ADVISORY

Zycosan is being marketed for intra-muscular use in horses with osteoarthritis. Appropriate treatment of osteoarthritis should include both disease-modifying and symptom-modifying medication. Zycosan is a symptom-modifying medication. It will do nothing to modify the disease process of osteoarthritis, but will help to control the clinical signs (e.g.: lameness) associated with it. The Zycosan recommended treatment regimen is 1 intra-muscular injection of Zycosan (3mg/kg) once every 7 days for a series of 4 treatments.

Individuals contemplating the use of Zycosan in horses training and racing at New York racetracks should be aware of the following:

- Given that Zycosan is not currently listed in the Rules and Regulations Chapter I (Division of Horse Racing and Pari-Mutuel Wagering) Subchapter A (Thoroughbred Racing) 9 NYCRR §§ 4043.2, paragraph (h) and Subchapter B (Harness Racing) 9 NYCRR §§ 4120.2, paragraph (n) apply:

“No other drugs or medications (including procaine) may be administered by any means within one week of the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete.”

- By rule, intra-muscular administration of Zycosan is not permitted within 7 days of the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete.
- Additionally, medications administered by an intra-muscular route may have variable absorption and elimination times. Repeated administrations of any medication can lead to accumulation of the drug in the system of the horse. For these reasons and until such time as administration studies can be performed to determine the elimination times for cumulative administration of Zycosan, the use of Zycosan in horses that are racing at New York racetracks is discouraged to prevent an adverse medication finding.