British Equine Veterinary Association

Client Information Leaflet

Enrofloxacin

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- **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**

This medicine has been prescribed or given for you horses or donkey. The drug is called Enrofloxacin and may have trade names such as Baytril, although other formulations may be dispensed by your veterinary surgeon. Although it is not licensed for use in these species it is being used under the prescribing cascade.

What is enrofloxacin? Enrofloxacin is an antibiotic medicine that belongs to the fluoroquinolone group of medicines. They are used to treat infections where other antibiotics have failed to work.

Why has my horse been prescribed enrofloxacin? Enrofloxacin is used to treat bacterial infections of the eye, lungs, abdomen or other sites. It should not normally be used in foals.

How should I store and handle enrofloxacin? **For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.** There are no special storage requirements. Please wash your hands after handling this product or wear gloves when administering it to your horse.

What should I do if I run out of enrofloxacin? Usually your vet 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 vet. 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 regrow, 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 enrofloxacin 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. If section IX of your horse's passport has not been signed you should record the use of this product in your medicines records indicating a minimum of 28 days meat withholding time.

What are the possible side effects of enrofloxacin in my horse? Some horses will go off their food. This can often be managed by syringing the product directly into the horse's mouth, rather than mixing in feed. Refrigerating the medicine may improve palatability. If you horse stops eating completely or becomes depressed you should **contact vet immediately and stop administering the product.**

Occasionally horses will develop diarrhoea. This can occur with ANY antibiotic and is not unique to enrofloxacin. If this occurs you should **contact your vet 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.

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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'. The medicine is not authorised by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), for use in horses. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why

they are prescribing this drug for your pet. If you do not agree to the use of this medicine in your horse you should discuss this with your veterinary surgeon.

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