



## **A Description of the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) Medication Management Procedures for horses participating in International Races**

The HKJC has a set of administrative procedures to minimize the risk of a horse travelling to Hong Kong to compete in an international race returning a positive raceday test result to a prohibited substance that was administered prior to travelling to Hong Kong

These procedures are described below:

### **Medication Management Information Package**

1. After you have entered a horse in a Hong Kong International Race, the HKJC's representative in your country will provide you with Medication Management Information Package. These documents are posted on the HKJC website. Read the documents carefully with your veterinary advisors to plan your medication program and decide whether it may be wise to submit an elective urine sample for analysis prior to travelling to Hong Kong.

### **Declaration of Medication Administered to Horses**

2. Within a few weeks of the proposed date of departure, the HKJC's representative will provide you with the HKJC's *First Medication Declaration Form for Racehorses Travelling to Hong Kong to Compete in International Races (MDF1)*.
3. You are required to declare all medications whether administered topically, by drench, by implant, by paste, in the feed or by injection, or by any other route, to the horse within 30 days of the date of departure to Hong Kong and the last date of administration and frequency of administration of anabolic substances, long-acting corticosteroids, procaine penicillin and other slowly eliminated medications, including implants.
4. Please ensure that you declare all medications (in addition to supplements that claim to have medical effects, herbal, "all natural" and/or homeopathic treatments) that have been administered to the horse **irrespective of** whether or not the medications are considered to be, or to contain, prohibited substances under the Rules of Racing of any other racing authority. Examples of medication that may be permitted in other countries but are not permitted in Hong Kong include mucolytics, anti-ulcer medications and sex hormones.
5. The medication declaration will be treated as **strictly confidential** by the HKJC and is required only to identify treatments that may have a high risk of causing a horse to be unable to compete in the race because of the presence of prohibited substances, as defined by the HKJC.
6. The completed Medication Declaration Form must be submitted to the HKJC's Department of Veterinary Regulation and International Liaison (DVR&IL) no less than ten days prior to the intended date of departure to Hong Kong.

### **Medication Risk Assessment by HKJC's DVR&IL**

7. An officer of the DVR&IL will review the medication declarations and then advise you of the risk assessment of the horse's medication history. If it is thought that there is a risk that previously administered medication may not clear the horse's system by the international raceday or, if medication not routinely used by the HKJC veterinary surgeons has been administered, you will be contacted and may be strongly advised to consider the submission of an elective urine sample to help better assess the horse's likely prohibited substance status on the raceday.
8. This is a risk assessment service only and in no way relieves the trainer of his obligation to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the horse is free of prohibited substances on the day on which it is to race. Please note that some prohibited substances may be detectable in blood but not in urine. The HKJC is unable to provide elective blood sample analysis. If you have any concerns, please contact your veterinary surgeon or the HKJC's DVR&IL for advice.
9. If it appears unlikely that a prohibited substance will be cleared from a horse's system prior to raceday, the HKJC may not be able to approve the horse to travel to Hong Kong.
10. The risks of a medication problem will be significantly reduced if you avoid the use of long acting medications, consult with HKJC veterinary surgeons and keep the medication of the horse as simple as possible during the period from entry to travelling to Hong Kong.

### **Pre-travel Veterinary Inspection between 3 to 6 days before Travel / Medication Update / Vaccination Status Check**

11. At some time between three to six days prior to departure of Hong Kong, a veterinary inspection for suitability to race will be performed by a veterinary surgeon appointed by the HKJC. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure that the horse is not suffering from any obvious problems, which could possibly:
  - adversely affect its health during travel,
  - cause it to finish lame or "break down" during the race,
  - have an adverse effect on its performance in its race, and
  - jeopardise its chances of competing in its race.

The horse's vaccination history will be checked and any treatment administered to the horse since the first medication declaration must be reported on the HKJC's *Second Medication Declaration Form for Racehorses Travelling to Hong Kong to Compete in International Races (MDF2)*.

12. The results of the veterinary inspection, vaccination status check and the updated medication declaration will be forwarded to the HKJC's DVR&IL for the final approval to travel. At this stage, it is expected that you will have consulted with HKJC veterinary surgeons to plan the medication of the horse during the period leading up to departure and that the final review of the medication history will be a formality.

### **Post-arrival Blood and Urine Collection**

13. On arrival at the isolation stables in Hong Kong, blood and urine samples will be collected from the horse for analysis by the HKJC's Racing Laboratory for the presence of prohibited substances.

14. Your travelling staff must declare any medication administered to the horse, since the submission of the last medication declaration at the time of the pre-travel veterinary inspection, on the *Post-Arrival and Third Medication Declaration Form for Racehorses Travelling to Hong Kong to Compete in International Races (MDF3)*.
15. The detection of declared medication that has a high probability of clearing the horse's system by raceday in the post-arrival sample is not a problem, although follow-up samples may be requested by the HKJC Chief Stipendiary Steward to assist in assessing the probability that the substance will clear by raceday.
16. The detection of any undeclared prohibited substance in the post-arrival sample(s) will be referred to the HKJC Chief Stipendiary Steward and may result in the withdrawal of the horse from the race and the loss of travelling subsidy and declaration fee (if any).

#### **Declaration of all Medication and Supplements Post-Arrival**

17. Any medications, supplements, liniments, etc. that have brought with the horse must be shown to the HKJC's veterinary surgeons on arrival at the quarantine stables. The products will be inspected and advice provided on their suitability / legality for use in Hong Kong.

#### **Veterinary Treatment in Hong Kong**

18. After arrival in Hong Kong, visiting international horses will be treated by HKJC veterinary surgeons under the same conditions as local racehorses.

#### **Pre-race Prohibited Substance Testing**

19. Pre-race urine and/or blood will be collected from all declared runners on raceday morning for analysis prior to racing. In addition, blood samples may be collected closer to race time for TCO<sub>2</sub> testing. Horses that do not produce a pre-race urine sample will be blood tested before and after racing and must also produce a post-race urine sample.

For your easy reference, a flow chart presentation of these procedures and a checklist of critical steps are attached.

Dr Peter Curl, BVSc (Hons), MRCVS  
Executive Manager, Veterinary Regulation

1 April 2014