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Racing Medication & Testing
Consortium

Executive Director

NSAIDS

- **Existing rule allows one NSAID to be administered 24 hours prior to the race**
- **Guidance suggests single, intravenous administration with no other NSAID administered within 48 hours at a minimum**
- **Regulated via threshold:**
 - **PBZ at 5 mcg/ml of plasma/serum**
 - **Flunixin at 20 ng/ml of plasma/serum**
 - **Ketoprofen at 10 ng/ml of plasma/serum**

NSAIDS

- **Regulatory Veterinarians produced a written opinion that current NSAID rules impacted their ability to conduct pre-race examinations**
 - **RMTC conducted an extensive review of existing published literature**
 - **Previously published studies seemed to lend credence to regulatory veterinarian's claims**
 - **Options:**
 - **Move from 24-hour administration to 48-hour**
 - **Reduce phenylbutazone threshold**
 - **No change**



NSAIDS

- **RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee recommended changing allowable threshold of PBZ from 5 mcg/ml to 2 mcg/ml as initial step**
 - **Still consistent with guidance in the rule for single IV injection 24 hours out**
 - **Will limit use of oral product**
 - **Will not allow “cheating in” or “topping off”**
 - **May still ultimately recommend a shift to 48 hours**
 - **Needs to go hand-in-hand with corticosteroid restrictions**
 - **Need data in order to regulate other NSAIDS at 48 hours**



NSAIDS

- **Rationales for change:**
 1. Literature review
 2. Sampling at time of pre-race examination showed ~20% of horses with PBZ concentrations above 5 mcg/ml
 3. Two jurisdictions saw increase in catastrophic injuries when they went from 2 mcg/ml to 5 mcg/ml
 - Jurisdiction A went from 1.31/1000 to 1.95/1000
 - Jurisdiction B went from 0.69/1000 to 2.26/1000
 - B has since changed back 1.18/1000 for first full year



Corticosteroids

- **RCI Class 4 Substances**
- **Anti-inflammatory in action**
- **Very diverse group of drugs, wide number of uses**
- **Some are difficult to test for and process is complicated by multiple routes of administration**
- **Many states choose to use testing budget elsewhere mostly due to Class 4 status**
- **Anecdotal reports of abuse, particularly intra-articular administrations**

Corticosteroids

- **Pennsylvania has adopted a 7-day ban on intra-articular injections**
- **Questionable how well this can be enforced with current testing methodologies**
- **RMTC is funding studies to improve testing sensitivity in blood in order to be able to detect for a longer period of time post-administration**
- **Also looking at dynamic markers to determine how long the “effect” lasts**



Penalties

- **Trying to get stewards/commissions to use a consistent approach when determining penalties**
- **Aggravating/Mitigating Circumstances Checklist with written report developed**
- **Creating templates for Commissions to use when issuing releases on violations**
- **RMTC website archiving rulings with explanation of drug**





For more information

rmtcnet.com



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Strengthening the Integrity of Racing



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