

Client Information Leaflet

Misoprostol

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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 Misoprostol and may have trade names such as Cytotec 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 Misoprostol? Misoprostol is a type of drug called a prostaglandin analogue. It is used in the treatment of gastric (peptic) ulcers. It works by mimicking the action of natural gut-protective prostaglandins.

Why has my horse been prescribed Misoprostol? Misoprostol is used to treat gastric ulcers where the licensed medication (omeprazole) is not effective or predicted to not be effective. It is most commonly used in glandular gastric lesions in the horse.

What should I do if I run out of misoprostol? 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 mild diarrhoea or colic.

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.

How should I store and handle Misoprostol? For safety, all medicines

should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.

Misoprostol mimics the effects of prostaglandins involved in starting labour in women and causes contractions of the womb (uterus). There is a small risk that you may inhale or ingest small amounts of this drug when preparing it to administer to your horse.

Therefore:

- **It should not be handled** by women who are pregnant, or who are planning a pregnancy, because it can be harmful to an unborn baby.
- **It should not be handled** by women who are breastfeeding since it passes into breastmilk and could cause side effects in nursing children.

Gloves are recommended when preparing this medicine for all women (uterine contractions can be painful).

If you know you are or suspect you are pregnant you should discuss the risks of exposure with your doctor.

In particular, care should be taken when crushing tablets, administering them or mixing food. Buckets, mixing implements and any surface used for preparing this medication should be thoroughly cleaned to prevent inadvertent exposure.

If my horse is better what should I do with the remaining medicine? You should complete the full course of treatment. Stopping the medication early may result in incomplete healing and recurrence of clinical signs.

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 misoprostol 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. You must sign section IX of your horse's passport to permanently exclude it from the human food chain.

What are the possible side effects of misoprostol in my horse? Mild colic or diarrhoea is occasionally seen. contact your veterinary surgeon if this occurs.

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.



The prescribing cascade: This medicine is authorised for use in human patients 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 horse. 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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