



Client Information Leaflet

Metformin

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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 metformin and may have trade names such as metformin BP, Glucophage or Metsol 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 Metformin? Metformin is a drug that controls blood glucose concentrations in animals that are overweight and suffer from equine metabolic syndrome.

Why has my horse been prescribed metformin? Metformin is used to manage equine metabolic syndrome in horses. It is particularly useful when owners are struggling with the dietary changes that are essential for long term management of this condition or when laminitis prevents exercise, that is essential for weight loss.

How should I store metformin? For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children. There are no special storage requirements.

What should I do if I run out of metformin? 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 you vet, the impact of overdosing have not been studied in the horse.

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 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 metformin 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 metformin in my horse? There are no know side effects of metformin in the horse, however if you observe any abnormal behaviour you should contact your veterinary surgeon and remind them that your horses is being treated with metformin.

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



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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