



## Client Information Leaflet

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.

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### Ertugliflozin

This medicine is not licensed as a veterinary medicine for use in the horse or donkey. Although it is not licensed for use in horses, it is being used under the prescribing cascade.

#### **What is ertugliflozin?**

Ertugliflozin is a drug that lowers insulin concentrations by promoting greater loss of glucose into urine thereby lowering blood sugar levels. Ertugliflozin is not registered for use in horses but is used in people. Your veterinary surgeon is dispensing it under the prescribing cascade in the absence of a suitable veterinary preparation.

#### **Why does my horse need ertugliflozin?**

Your horse is being treated with ertugliflozin to reduce blood sugar concentrations and therefore reduce high insulin levels. High insulin levels are an important component of equine metabolic syndrome and may play a role in the development of laminitis in affected horses.

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

#### **Can ertugliflozin be used in horses that are pregnant or lactating?**

Studies in horses have not been performed however toxicity during pregnancy has been reported in other animals. In humans it is recommended that the drug is avoided during pregnancy.

#### **What should I do with any medicine that is left over?**

It is important that you follow the treatment course prescribed by your veterinary surgeon. Do not use any medication that is left over without veterinary advice.

**Can ertugliflozin cause side-effects?** Some horses may drink and urinate more when treated with ertugliflozin. Hyperlipidaemia (increased fat levels in the blood) is often seen in horses treated with ertugliflozin but has not been associated with clinical disease and should not be over-interpreted. In the absence of clinical signs horses being treated should be monitored for loss of appetite or dullness that might give an indication of hyperlipaemia. If these signs are observed, contact your veterinary surgeon immediately. In people, urinary tract infections, ketoacidosis and gangrene have been reported but are considered to be very rare and have not been observed in horses.

**Can ertugliflozin be used in all horses?** The use of ertugliflozin should be avoided in horses with liver or kidney disease.

**What should I do if I have administered too much ertugliflozin?** If you suspect your horse has received an overdose then you should contact your veterinary surgeon.

#### **Can ertugliflozin be administered alongside other medicines?**

Ertugliflozin is not known to react with other medicines, however you should make your vet aware if your horse is receiving other treatment.

#### **What do I need to record in my horse's passport?**

Ertugliflozin is not authorised for use in horses. Its use should be recorded in the passport unless your horse has been signed as not being eligible to enter the human food chain.

#### **What should I do if the product contacts my skin?**

You should always wash hands thoroughly after treating animals. Any spillage of the product onto human skin should be removed by washing with soap and water.

#### **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'. Your vet can explain this in further detail and 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 before administration.