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**IMPORTANT STANDARDBRED HORSEMEN, VET AND OWNER NOTICE
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The New York State Gaming Commission has adopted 19 national drug thresholds that become effective January 1, 2015.

METHYLPREDNISOLONE (e.g., Depo-Medrol®)

The new threshold for methylprednisolone (e.g., Depo-Medrol®) can be exceeded by administrations performed weeks or even months earlier. For example:

- An IM administration of Depo-Medrol could cause a post-race violation for **99 days**
- Some joint injections of Depo-Medrol might cause a violation for **50 days** or more
- Other administrations of Depo-Medrol may cause a violation within **7 days**

Therefore, **effective immediately, Depo-Medrol should not be administered to any horse that a trainer wishes to race in New York.** Horses will have to meet the new national threshold of 100 pg/ml on race day beginning on April 1, 2015.

Beginning April 1, 2015, any horse that is treated with Depo-Medrol also will not be eligible to race until the horse, at the trainer's expense, tests negative for the new threshold (100 pg/ml) and is released to race by the presiding judge.

CORTICOSTEROIDS & FLUNIXIN (Banamine®)

The Commission also adopted new restrictions on the use of Clenbuterol, DMSO, Firocoxib and Flunixin, effective April 1, 2015:

- Clenbuterol will be permitted, for horses that requalify after not racing for 30 or more days, only **14 days** or more before racing
- Clenbuterol may not be administered except under the general supervision of a treating veterinarian and then only as needed for respiratory disorders
- DMSO will be permitted only **48 hours** or more before racing
- Firocoxib will be permitted only **14 days** or more before racing
- Flunixin (Banamine®) will be permitted only **48 hours** or more before racing

EQUINE STEROID ADMINISTRATION LOG

Effective April 1, 2015, as required by new Commission Rule 4120.4(b), all trainers and veterinarians must maintain complete and accurate veterinary records of every corticosteroid injection and report corticosteroid joint injections using the Equine Steroid Administration Log ("ESAL") at <http://esal.gaming.ny.gov/>.

THRESHOLDS (new rule)

Effective April 1, 2015, these new and amended rules will read as follows:

Per Se Thresholds:

Section 4120.3 ("Other prohibitions") of 9 NYCRR will be renumbered Section 4120.18.

A new Section 4120.3 will be added to Part 4120 of 9 NYCRR:

Section 4120.3. Equine drug thresholds; per se

(a) A horse shall have raced in violation of this section if any of the following substances is found, by the laboratory conducting tests for the commission, to be present in a race-day urine or blood sample taken from such horse at a concentration in excess of a threshold listed below. The test result of such laboratory shall include an assessment of the measurement uncertainty and imprecision of the quantitative threshold for the substance.

- (1) Acepromazine: 10 ng/ml HEPS in urine;
- (2) Butorphanol:
 - (i) 300 ng/ml of total butorphanol in urine; or
 - (ii) 2 ng/ml of free butorphanol in plasma;
- (3) Dantrolene: 100 pg/ml of 5-hydroxydantrolene in plasma;
- (4) Detomidine:
 - (i) 1 ng/ml of any metabolite of detomidine in urine; or
 - (ii) any detomidine in plasma;
- (5) Diclofenac: 5 ng/ml in plasma;
- (6) DMSO: 10 mcg/ml in plasma;
- (7) Firocoxib: 20 ng/ml in plasma;
- (8) Flunixin: 20 ng/ml in plasma;
- (9) Furosemide: 100 ng/ml in plasma and a specific gravity of urine less than 1.010;
- (10) Glycopyrrolate: 3 pg/ml in plasma;
- (11) Ketoprofen: 10 ng/ml in plasma;
- (12) Lidocaine: 20 pg/ml of total 3-hydroxylidocaine in plasma;
- (13) Mepivacaine:

- (i) 10 ng/ml of total hydroxymepivacaine in urine; or
- (ii) any hydroxymepivacaine in plasma;
- (14) Methocarbamol: 1 ng/ml in plasma;
- (15) Methylprednisolone: 100 pg/ml in plasma;
- (16) Omeprazole: 1 ng/ml of omeprazole sulfide in urine;
- (17) Phenylbutazone: 2 mcg/ml in plasma;
- (18) Procaine penicillin: 25 ng/ml of procaine in plasma; and
- (19) Xylazine: 10 pg/ml of total xylazine and its metabolites in plasma.

(b) A laboratory finding that a horse has not exceeded a threshold set forth in this section shall not constitute a defense to a violation of any other section of this subchapter.

RESTRICTED TIME PERIODS (amended and new rules)

Effective April 1, 2015, these new and amended rules will read as follows:

Restricted Time Period for Clenbuterol:

Subdivision (g) of Section 4120.2 of 9 NYCRR would be amended as follows:

(g) The following substances are permitted to be administered by any means until 96 hours before the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete:

(5) clenbuterol, except as provided in subdivision (k) of this section;

A new Subdivision (k) would be added to Section 4120.2 as follows:

(k) If a horse has been required to qualify when not showing a current performance within 30 days or more and has not yet raced after qualifying, then such horse may not race for at least 14 days following an administration of clenbuterol.

Use Restriction for Clenbuterol:

A new subdivision (f) would be added to Section 4120.2 as follows:

(f) Clenbuterol shall be administered only under the general supervision of a treating veterinarian and in a manner not exceeding its use for treating respiratory disorders.

Restricted Time Period for Firocoxib:

A new Subdivision (h) would be added to Section 4120.2 as follows:

(h) A horse may not race for at least 14 days following an administration of firocoxib.

Restricted Time Period for Flunixin (Banamine®)

Subdivision (d) of Section 4120.2 of 9 NYCRR will be repealed.

Subdivision (e) of Section 4120.2 of 9 NYCRR will apply to every use of Flunixin:

(e) The following substances are permitted to be administered by any means until 48 hours before the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete:

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(14) the following nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs): flunixin (e.g., Banamine)

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None of these substances may be administered within 48 hours of the scheduled post time of the race in which the horse is to compete. In this regard, substances ingested by a horse shall be deemed administered at the time of eating and drinking. It shall be part of the trainer's responsibility to prevent such ingestion within such 48 hours.

Use Restriction for Methylprednisolone (e.g., "Depo-Medrol"):

A new subdivision (m) will be added to Section 4120.2 as follows:

(m) A horse may not race after an administration of any formulation of methylprednisolone unless such horse subsequently tests below the threshold set forth in section 4120.3 of this Part for such drug in a test conducted by or for the commission at the sole expense of the trainer of the horse, and is released to race by the presiding judge.

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