



## WHAT IS MEDICATION CONTROL?

The information provided in this section aims to assist racing participants in treating horses effectively and legitimately without unintentionally contravening the Rules of Racing. For further information please refer to the [Anti-doping and Medication Control FAQs](#) and Veterinary Notices and Policies in the [Veterinary Info](#) section.

### ➤ **Medication Code of Practice**

All treatments administered to a horse in training should be given in the best interests of the horse's health and welfare, in accordance with [Rule \(C\) 28 - Veterinary treatment and medication](#). Medication should only be used when the horse has a disease or injury and advice should be sought from the prescribing veterinary surgeon regarding appropriate levels of exercise during treatment and recovery.

### ➤ **Record of administration of medicines**

It is a requirement of the Rules of Racing, [Rule \(C\) 13 – Medication records](#) that all Prohibited Substances administered to a horse under the care and control of a trainer must be recorded. Rule (C) 13 clearly outlines the requirements and may be updated. The record must include authorised medicines administered by a veterinary surgeon or trainer's representative, medicines for which there are exemptions e.g. anti-infective agents, and any supplements (such as those administered via oral syringe, powder into feed etc.) that are considered prohibited under the Rules.

### ➤ **Administration of substances to horses on racecourse premises and on the day of a race**

Administration of any substance, except normal food and water is prohibited on racecourse premises and on the day of the race, unless specific dispensation has been granted. Information can be found in the Veterinary Notices and Policies in the [Veterinary Info](#) section.

Only a Veterinary Officer, or Racecourse Veterinary Surgeon, can take into a Racecourse stable yard a Prohibited Substance, or any means of administering a Prohibited Substance ([Rule \(C\) 33 – Restrictions applying in relation to a horse whilst on racecourse property](#)).

If there is reason to suspect that unauthorised substances have been administered to a horse that contravene the Rules, BHA has authorisation, in



accordance with [Rule \(A\) 49 – Powers to search training premises](#), to search any vehicle used to transport horses to or from the racecourse, take samples or custody of any feedstuffs or other materials as necessary and to search persons on licensed premises.

➤ **Detection Times**

In conjunction with the [European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee](#) (EHSLC) and other international jurisdictions, BHA has developed advice in the form of Detection Times for some commonly used therapeutic medications to help practising veterinary surgeons to minimise the risk of positive drug tests on racehorses following routine treatment for disease or injury. More information about Detection Times can be found in the [Guidance on Prohibited Substances](#) and [Veterinary Info](#) sections.