

BHA NOTICE – SILDENAFIL

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) would like to make licensed trainers aware that the use of sildenafil is prohibited at all times.

The BHA is aware that an extemporaneous preparation of an injectable product containing sildenafil, mepivacaine and glucose is being manufactured as a 'veterinary special' and sold for equine use.

Please be advised that there are risks associated with the use of compounded products (veterinary specials).

These are products that do not hold a Marketing Authorisation (MA) and as such they have not been assessed against the same standards of quality, safety (for the target animal, user, consumer and environment) and efficacy as authorised veterinary medicines. Despite this, they can legally be prescribed, supplied and used under the last step of the prescribing cascade for veterinary medicines.

The UK Government statement for extemporaneous preparations provides that these carry a higher safety risk than authorised medicines and this should be considered when prescribing them.

Drug concentrations in a formulation may differ from that declared on the product label, and from batch to batch for a single product. For these reasons there is **no reliable withdrawal guidance** for the use of any compounded product, and we would recommend trainers against their use.