

Notice to Trainers – Thoroughbred Racing

Intra-articular Injection of Corticosteroids

Trainers are reminded of the provisions of AR.64.M which prohibit the administration of corticosteroids by intra-articular injection (injection into the joint) within 8 clear days (as defined in AR.1) of participation in any race, official trial or jump-out.

Trainers are further advised that:

- The stand down period for intra-articular corticosteroids must not be confused with the recommended “withdrawal” time for the particular drug used and/or for the joint injected.
- The withdrawal period for a prohibited substance is calculated to ensure a horse is presented clear of the prohibited substance when sampled. In the case of intra-articular injections, the withdrawal period will depend on the corticosteroid used as well as the joint/s injected.
- A recent inquiry held by Racing NSW stewards involved the detection of triamcinolone acetonide in a race day sample following the intra-articular injection of triamcinolone acetonide (in the preparation *Kenacort*) into the stifle joint just outside the 8 clear days in accordance with AR.64M.
- In certain situations, specifically for longer acting corticosteroid preparations such as methylprednisolone and/or for injections into joints other than the carpal (knee) and fetlock joints, the recommended “withdrawal” period may be much longer than the minimum stand down time prescribed by AR.64M.
- It is essential to consult carefully with their veterinarians in deciding upon the appropriate time of intra-articular injection in each particular case to ensure that horses are presented free of prohibited substances.