

2025 ApHC Rulebook
Drugs and Medications Rule Changes (Rule 40)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I'm used to getting up at 1:00 AM to give my horse medications 12 hours before their class at 1:00 PM, do you mean I might actually get a little more sleep at a horse show?

A: Side-effects or improved sleep patterns are never a guarantee at a horse show—but we sure hope this helps!

Q: Won't these new drug rules make it easier to overdose horses and get a lame horse through the show pen?

A: No. We have worked with our drug and medication testing partners and laboratory to ensure that the safety of our horses and drug testing procedures are not compromised.

Q: I gave my horse phenylbutazone (Bute®) at 7:00 PM last night. Can I give it again at 3:00 PM and show at 5:00 PM?

A: No. Only one dose can be given in the prior 24 hours even though 3:00 PM is two (2) hours prior to competition.

Q: Can I give more than one NSAID (i.e. phenylbutazone and flunixin) at a time with the new rules?

A: No. Only one NSAID may be administered. The ApHC does not allow stacking of NSAIDs.

Q: We have never had to fill out a Medication Report Form at the shows before, why the change?

A: Over the past few years, multiple horses have tested positive for various medications which were prescribed by a veterinarian for treating a legitimate condition that would otherwise not prevent the horse from showing or provide any competitive advantage. Unfortunately, these members were temporarily suspended until therapeutic use could be verified.

Q: My horse weighs 1000 pounds and I gave 10 mL of flunixin (Banamine®) two hours before my class. Do I need to fill out a Medication Report Form?

A: No. Only medications which are not described in Rule 40 need to be declared on the form.

Q: I filled out a Medication Report Form, but my horse tested positive for a forbidden substance (i.e. dormosedan) does that mean I'm exempt from disciplinary action?

A: No. The safe harbor clause does not protect the responsible party in the event of a positive test of a forbidden substance.

Q: My horse's hocks were injected 45 days prior to the show. Do I need to fill out a Medication Report Form?

A: Maybe. Although it is unlikely, depending on the medication used, a detectable level could still be present at the time of the show. Be sure to ask your veterinarians advice. Filing a Medication Report Form will help us verify therapeutic use under the new safe harbor clause.

Q: I made a mistake on the Medication Report Form, but I already submitted it. Can I get it back from the show office?

A: No. The form will not be returned under any circumstances. However, you may submit a corrected form with an explanation attached.

Q: Where can I find a list of the medications that could be tested for?

A: The ApHC utilizes the most current version of the [ASSOCIATION OF RACING COMMISSIONERS INTERNATIONAL](#) guidelines.

Q: I am confused or still have more questions. Who can I contact for more information?

A: Send us an email at show@appaloosa.com