

# [News story: Suspension of Veterinary Medicines containing the excipient Diethanolamine \(DEA\)](#)

*Updated:* Update on supply, further batches released

## **Update 13 August**

Further flunixin product is now available to order.

Wholesalers can accept further batches from the manufacturer provided it is accompanied by a "Caution in Use" letter.

## **Update 9 August**

The VMD is actively working with Marketing Authorisation Holders to allow them to release further currently labelled flunixin product onto the market for non-food horses only, provided it is accompanied by a "Caution in Use" letter (to be approved by the VMD) which outlines the conditions of use and restricts supply to non-food horses. We will inform vets when flunixin product is available to order.

## **Update 1 August 2018 2:30pm**

The suspension means that no product containing DEA and indicated for a food-producing animal may be released or placed on the market by the Marketing Authorisation Holder. No products are being recalled. The VMD judges the consumer safety risk to be very low and we are not aware of any problems in animals associated with the use of products containing DEA.

## **Distribution of products containing DEA**

At this stage, no further product may be released by the qualified person or placed on the market (i.e. stock controlled by Marketing Authorisation Holders may not be sent to wholesalers). However, as the products are not being recalled, products already at the wholesalers may continue to be distributed.

## **Using products containing DEA**

Vets may continue to prescribe and use products containing DEA whilst stock is available.

Vets may also continue to obtain stock from wholesalers. Therefore there should not be any immediate availability concerns.

## Availability of alternative medicines

Eight of the nine suspended products are solutions for injection for cattle and horses or cattle, horses and pigs containing flunixin meglumine, a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. The other suspended product is a suspension for injection for cattle, horses and pigs containing the antimicrobials trimethoprim and sulfadiazine.

There are other veterinary medicines currently authorised for use in cattle, pigs and horses that either contain the same active substance(s) in a different form or can be used to treat the same conditions.

Treatment decisions are the responsibility of the individual prescribing vet.

## Future availability of flunixin for intravenous use in non-food producing horses

The VMD is aware of vets' concerns over the potential future lack of availability of flunixin for intravenous use in non-food producing horses. The VMD is investigating potential ways to maintain the availability of injectable flunixin for use in such horses.

A list of these products is below:

Product	Vm Number	MAH
Allevinix 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Pigs and Horses	15052/4144	Ceva Animal Health Ltd
Cronyxin Injection, 5% w/v Solution for Injection	12597/4014	Cross Vetpharm Group Ltd
Dugnixon 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Pigs and Horses	36167/4005	Global Vet Health S.L.
Finadyne 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection	01708/4582	Intervet UK Ltd
Flunixin 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Horses and Pigs	02000/4170	Norbrook Laboratories Limited
Meflosyl 5% Solution for Injection	42058/4085	Zoetis UK Limited
Norixin 5% Solution for Injection	02000/4137	Norbrook Laboratories Limited
Pyroflam 50 mg/ml Solution for Injection for Cattle, Horses and Pigs	02000/4253	Norbrook Laboratories Limited
Tribrissen 48% Suspension for Injection	01708/4593	Intervet UK Ltd

The VMD has done this in the light of the [scientific opinion of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use](#) (the scientific advisory committee to the European Medicines Agency) that there may be a risk to humans from consuming food from animals treated with products containing DEA.

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## [Press release: UK-India science ministers reinforce strong research partnership as future collaboration is announced](#)

The UK and India are committed partners in the fight to transform lives through research and modern technology. To reinforce that cooperation, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, Sam Gyimah and Indian Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan today (Thursday 26 July) co-chaired the biennial Science and Innovation Council meeting in New Delhi.

During the council meeting, the ministers celebrated the human impact that existing cooperation through the 600 projects supported by the Newton-Bhabha Partnership had brought, such as using technology to monitor maternal health and make water safe.

They reinforced their desire to use science and innovation to address some of the biggest challenges facing society – for example the threat of climate change, food security and energy consumption – and to harness the opportunities brought by technological advancements.

They signalled their commitment to a deeper relationship by jointly announcing four new awards worth £4.8 million under the Civil Nuclear Energy programme and seven new awards worth £10.8 million under Phase 2 of the Global research programme on health. They also renewed a Memorandum of Understanding focusing on environmental challenges and another on arts and humanities.

Speaking from Delhi, Science Minister Sam Gyimah said:

The UK believes in the power of research and development to tackle global challenges and improve people's lives for the better. India is the fastest rising research and innovation power in the world, and so I'm excited by the huge potential for enhanced collaboration as we support high-quality, high-impact research that changes lives.

Today's Science and Innovation Council meeting has reinforced our strong relationship, and the announcements we have jointly made today will ensure that cooperation continues to go from strength to strength.

The ministers also applauded India's growing science capability and innovation-focused science policy approach. They reinforced their commitment to the India-UK Technology Partnership – announced by PMs Modi and May in April – which brings together the UK's modern Industrial Strategy and India's core science and innovation initiatives.

Indian Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Harsh Vardhan said:

Technology Cooperation is the key to the future. India and the UK should work on sustainable, affordable, and low energy consumption technologies.

The council was created to strengthen the 2 countries' science, technology and innovation relationship. This year's meeting focussed on the rapid growth of the UK and India's joint research portfolio and recognised the strength of the bilateral relationship – India is the fastest growing research power and the UK is a major, high-quality research power. Bilateral research collaboration has seen exponential growth from £1 million in 2008 to £400 million by 2021.

During his visit to India, Sam Gyimah also gave the welcome address at an Education Technology event in Delhi. He will visit research projects in Chennai funded under the Newton-Bhabha partnership.

Examples of how the UK-India partnership is changing lives:

### **Better monitoring of maternal health will help save lives**

Obstetric haemorrhage, pre-eclampsia and sepsis account for more than 50% of maternal deaths worldwide. Early detection and effective management of these conditions relies on vital signs monitoring, including pulse and blood pressure. A Newton-Bhabha funded project is testing the introduction of a new vital sign device into routine maternity care at community and hospital level in 10 sites in India, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Malawi and Haiti. Developed at KCL in London, the 'CRADLE Vital Signs Alert' is a hand-held semi-automated device which measures blood pressure and pulse, detecting hypertension and circulatory shock with an early warning system. It is affordable, easy-to-use, and portable with low power requirements.

### **Cutting fertiliser use in rice production**

India accounts for almost half of the global imports for phosphorus fertilisers. Efforts over the last 50 years to boost food production have relied on increasing the yield of dwarf varieties of rice and wheat, using large quantities of chemical fertiliser in areas with poor soil. Increased fertiliser use means increased cost to farmers and fertiliser run-off brings water pollution issues. A Newton-Bhabha Fellowship project looked at the way root systems in rice acquire water and nutrients. Researchers discovered the key genes that control the rice root traits that improve the plant's ability to forage for phosphate in low nutrient soils. This is providing innovative

new tools to advance the performance of rice varieties and minimise the use of phosphate fertilisers for rice production. The development of new rice varieties able to grow efficiently in low nutrient soils promises to have major economic impact by supporting the sustainable intensification of agriculture and reducing environmental pollution.

## **Making water safe for all**

The supply of clean drinking water in rural India continues to be an enormous challenge, with many people acquiring waterborne diseases and a plethora of other sicknesses due to consuming contaminated water. Indian researcher Chandrasekaran J. (Chandra) is now a successful entrepreneur helping to provide safe, clean water to people living in India thanks to support from the Newton-Bhabha Fund. The Leaders in Innovation Fellowships programme enabled Chandra to join a cohort of researchers from India on a residential visit to the UK where he was mentored by experts in developing his business plans and in pitching his venture to investors for commercialisation. Chandra's company, WATSAN, now manufactures and distributes low-cost yet effective electricity-free water filters and sanitary solutions to urban slums and rural families who cannot afford other expensive options. Since the inception of its water purifier unit, WATSAN's pioneering steps in bringing welfare to India have been recognised through a number of national awards.

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## **[News story: New dental care approach to be expanded after trial reduces tooth decay](#)**

Up to 50 practices in England will be selected to join the 73 currently testing a new approach to dental care.

The new system incentivises dentists to offer full oral health assessments and self-care plans on top of traditional treatments.

In the first year of piloting the new approach, dentists reported that:

- 90% of patients had reduced or maintained levels of tooth decay
- 80% of patients had reduced or maintained levels of gum disease
- 97% of patients said they were satisfied with the dental care they received

The recently published [evaluation report](#) from the first year of testing recommended that a further group of dental practices should be recruited into the programme.

The new practices are currently being selected and will join from October

2018 and January 2019.

The existing 73 practices are continuing to test the new approach, with a new remuneration system added which supports dentists carrying out preventative work.

The scheme could be rolled out nationally from April 2020 if it can be shown to benefit patients, the NHS and dental practice following a thorough evaluation.

Health Minister Steve Brine said:

The government has made great progress in improving the oral health of patients and tooth decay among children continues to decrease – but there is more we can do.

Our new proposed NHS dental contract focuses on prevention and quality of care and will be thoroughly tested to ensure it is financially sustainable for the NHS, patients and dentists.

Chief Dental Officer Sarah Hurley said:

The announcement of up to 50 more prototype practices is an important step in developing the NHS dental service in this its 70th year.

I welcome it and hope that further refinement and testing with the profession will lead us to a model that enables dentists and their teams to play their full part in the delivery of integrated care and further improvement of oral and general health.

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**[News story: Total Eclipse of the Moon](#)**

## on 27 July 2018

A total eclipse of the Moon will occur on Friday 27 July 2018. This lunar eclipse exhibits the longest duration of totality at 103.6 minutes in the 21st century. It will be visible in its entirety from the Indian Ocean region, westernmost China, India, the Middle East, central Asia, Turkey and the eastern half of Africa. Most of Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia, most of China, western Africa and most of Europe will see the total phase of the eclipse.

Some of the total phase of the eclipse is visible from the United Kingdom as the Moon rises during the umbral ([the Moon's dark inner shadow](#)) part of the eclipse. The Moon will rise in a totally-eclipsed state and we will see about three quarters of the total phase of the eclipse.

The Moon will rise at different times across the United Kingdom. For example, the Moon rises at 20:42 BST in Dover and at 21:43 BST in Portree on the Isle of Skye. This should help identify the approximate times of Moon rise in the UK for Friday 27 July 2018. Also, specific moon rise times for your location can be calculated using our dynamical astronomical data service, [Websurf 2.0](#) or using our beta Android app, [Sky High](#).

Further details of the eclipse can be found on [HMNAO's Eclipses Online web pages](#)