

# [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.