State of Indiana
Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Eric Holcomb, Governor **www.in.gov/hrc**

IHRC Advisory Notice to Horsemen

March 22, 2024

***Update* on New Advisory on Over-The-Counter Equine Supplements and Herbals**
APPLICABLE TO STANDARDBRED & QUARTER HORSE

The IHRC is renewing its advisory to horsemen to **please exercise caution when using supplements and holistic medications**, especially those that claim to treat or prevent illness. Many of these drugs/supplements are not FDA approved and may contain ingredients that are not regulated and could potentially cause harm to a horse and/or potentially result in a positive test. Beware of the products claiming that they "don't test" or are "test free".

Many animal drugs and supplements are marketed without approval required by law. Unapproved animal drugs include drugs compounded by pharmacies or veterinarians, herbals, homeopathic products, and "animal supplements". The FDA defines a drug as *"any substance, food or non-food, that is used to treat, cure, mitigate, or prevent a disease. A drug is also any non-food substance that is intended to affect the structure or function of the animal. Drugs must be shown to be safe and effective for intended use."*

What does FDA approval mean?
• The product is safe and effective for its intended use
• The methods, facilities and controls used for the manufacturing, processing and packaging of the drug are adequate to preserve its identity, strength, quality and purity

What do you get with FDA approval?
• Target Animal Safety
• Effectiveness
• Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls
• Human Food Safety
• Environmental Impact
• Labeling (FDA generated label)

Manufacturers of non-FDA approved products cannot claim their products prevent, treat, or cure disease.

Because these products lack oversight and safety by the FDA, the IHRC strongly recommends that horsemen use caution in administering these products to horses participating in racing.

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****UPDATE****

Recently, the New York Drug Testing and Research Program detected the two major alkaloids of the Bulbus Fritillaria plant (Peimine (Verticine) and Peiminini (Verticinone)) in Standardbred horses racing in New York. Fritillaria herbal feed supplements that contain these alkaloids have anti-inflammatory, antitussive, and expectorant effects. Examples of these products include, but are not limited to, "Open Air," "Power Pak Nitro," and "Respi-Free" marketed by MB Mad Barn, USA. The efficacy of these alkaloids has been demonstrated scientifically. The safety of these compounds has not been determined in horses.

Pursuant to IHRC rules 71 IAC 1-1-42.2/71 IAC 1.5-1-40, Fritillaria alkaloids are considered foreign substances and will come under the prohibitions contained in 71 IAC 8-1-2/71 IAC 8.5-1-2, which provides that no horse shall carry in its body any foreign substance within 24 hours of the first post on a day in which the horse is scheduled to race.

The prohibition on the use of or the presence of Fritillaria alkaloids on race day or in a post-race sample will be enforced.

Pursuant to the March 2024 Update to the ARCI Uniform Classification Guidelines and Recommended Penalties Model Rule, Fritillaria alkaloids were added as a **Drug Class 4, Penalty B** substance.

For questions, please contact Dr. Kerry Peterson, IHRC Equine Medical Director.
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** This Advisory does not attempt to evaluate supplements and holistic medications used in thoroughbred racehorses. Horsemen should consult the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) and/or the Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit (HIWU) for medication and anti-doping regulations involving thoroughbreds.*