Indications
For the treatment and prevention of gastric ulcers in the horse. Clinical signs of gastric ulceration include depressed appetite, behavioural changes, poor hair coat, recurrent low grade colic, intermittent loose faeces, chronic diarrhoea, poor body condition and poor performance. FOALS: Signs in foals include depressed appetite or inappetence, teeth grinding, dribbling saliva, colic, diarrhoea, sternal recumbency, dog sitting or weakness.

Clinical signs of gastric ulceration include:

- depressed appetite
- behavioural changes
- poor hair coat
- recurrent low grade colic
- intermittent loose faeces
- chronic diarrhoea
- poor body condition
- poor performance

For accurate diagnosis of gastric ulcers, direct endoscopic examination of the gastric mucosa (gastroscopy) is recommended.

Pharmacology
Omeprazole is a proton-pump inhibitor. Omeprazole suppresses gastric acid by specific inhibition of the H+/K+ ATPase enzyme system at the secretory surface of the gastric parietal cell. Omeprazole will block gastric acid secretion irrespective of the stimulus. Maximum acid suppression occurs after 3-5 days of treatment.
Safety to Horses

Gold Guard has a wide safety margin in horses and foals and can be used in foals from one month old. Gold Guard can be safely administered to stallions used for breeding. Safety in pregnant or lactating mares has not been established. The safety of Gold Guard for longer than 91 days treatment has not been determined in clinical studies. Complications of long-term administration of omeprazole have not been reported in the horse. Gold Guard can be used concomitantly with other medications including anthelmintics, antibiotics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatories and other commonly administered veterinary preparations.

Directions For Use

Always administer Gold Guard on a relatively empty stomach. Administer a minimum of 20 minutes prior to feeding.

After administering the initial dose use remaining product within 1 month.

Dosage and Administration

Treatment Dose: 4 mg/kg.

Adult horses (600 kg) give 6 mL (1 mL per 100 kg) daily for 28 days.

Prevention/Maintenance Dose: 1 mg/kg.

Adult horses (600 kg) give 1.5 mL (0.25 mL per 100 kg) daily for 28 days.

The maintenance dose may be insufficient to prevent the recurrence of ulceration in horses subjected to increased stress such as intense training, heavy competition schedule, transport, etc. In such cases, a dose of 2mg/kg (3.0mL for a 600 kg horse) is recommended.

The product is very sticky so ensure that it is applied onto the internal parts of the mouth, not just dropped into the oral cavity. Immediately raise the horse's head for a few seconds after dosing to ensure the full dose has been swallowed.