Cimetidine - Equine
(Tagamet)

Common Drug Name
Cimetidine

Common Brand Names
Tagamet (human form)

Generic products are available.

Storage
Store the oral form at room temperature in a tight, light resistant childproof container.

The injectable form should be stored at room temperature, NOT in the refrigerator.

Uses
Cimetidine is in a class of drugs called H2 receptor antagonists. It is used to decrease the amount of stomach acid produced. This aids in the treatment of ulcers that are present and helps prevent ulcer formation. It is also used in the treatment of gastritis (inflammation of the stomach) and esophagitis (inflammation of the esophagus).

Dose and Administration
Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the horse for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects
Side effects are rare. If your horse has any abnormal signs, contact your veterinarian.

If your horse experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions
Not for use in horses hypersensitive (allergic) to cimetidine.

Use with caution in horses who are older, have blood abnormalities, or those with liver or kidney disease.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with cimetidine.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions
Cimetidine may affect the levels of many different medications in the blood. Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your horse is taking while receiving cimetidine.

Cimetidine may decrease white blood cell counts, especially if given with other bone marrow suppressing drugs such as azathioprine.

If used with antacids, metoclopramide, sucralfe, digoxin, or ketoconazole, give the cimetidine 2 hours before or 2 hours after the other medication(s).

Withdrawal Times
Cimetidine is a classified drug. Consult your veterinarian and event officials before using cimetidine or any other medication in a performance horse. Not for use in horses intended for food.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose
May see rapid heart rate and difficulty breathing. If you know or suspect your horse has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your horse, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and animals.