

From: **Scott Stanley** sdstanley@ucdavis.edu
Subject: RE: Morphine
Date: November 29, 2018 at 4:47 PM
To: Ed Martin emartin@arci.com



Hi Ed,

I reviewed the AAEP proceedings review paper submitted by Dr. Fenger. The paper was presented in 2005 with data from prior years data (1981-2004).

More recent information compiled by the RMTCC with assistance from the IFHA and EHSLC (European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee) supports the use of 30 ng/mL as a urine screening limit for accredited laboratories. This recommendation is supported with peer-reviewed literature and other well documented scientific information. The RMTCC Scientific Advisory Committee has collectively reviewed the available information and makes their recommendation with unanimous support from its membership.

Due to the awareness made through reported morphine findings in Australia, Ireland and England resulting from contaminated feed, this issue has largely been eliminated through working with feed companies to improve quality control procedures. The problem has been well controlled in the United States with very few findings (~6) reported for morphine since 2005. If this were indeed a widespread environmental problem many more findings would have been issued by US regulatory authorities in the past 13 years. Environmental contamination of feed would likely result in more than one violation, such contaminations don't occur in solitude.

I am pleased to find some progress has been made with the folks at NARV, their prior petition to the RCI SAC recommended screening limits of 250 ng/mL in urine and 100 ng/mL in blood. The earlier recommendations by Dr. Fenger's organization uses out dated literature along with thresholds designed for humans to backing their pursuit for higher screening limits. The humans values are higher because humans intentionally consume poppy seeds which contain small amounts of morphine. As stated earlier, horses don't routinely ingest poppy seeds, therefore using thresholds based on SAMHSA or DOT guidelines is misguided.

The use of screening limits by racing laboratories permit jurisdictions to avoid penalizing trainers and owners from inadvertent analytical findings. However, if these screening levels are not rigorous then unauthorized use of prohibited medication could go unreported.

Best Regards,

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From: Ed Martin [<mailto:emartin@arci.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 9:08 AM
Subject: Morphine

The Racing Medication and Testing Consortium has made a proposal to RCI to set a screening limit for morphine at 30ng./ml. Currently there is no recommended screening limit and individual labs may call a positive at LOD which would not take into account environmental transfers or feed contamination.

This proposal recommend adoption of the “international standard” yet there is no supporting materials submitted.

Last evening, a proposal came to RCI challenging this screening limit. A 2005 paper presented to the AAEP was attached concerning this matter: **Review of Environmental Morphine Identifications: Worldwide Occurrences and Responses of Authorities.**

You can access the RMTTC proposal as well as the paper through this link: <http://www.arcimodelrules.online/2018/11/20/addition-of-morphine-to-arcischedule/>

You are receiving this email as a Member of the ARCI Scientific Advisory Group. I am circulating this for comment prior to our meetings this Sunday and Monday. This information has been circulated to the committee members and it is unclear what path they will choose to take at this time.

Any input or guidance you would recommend would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you in advance.

Ed

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