

FA Doping Control Programme – Guide to Medical Approvals 2012



This document is a short reference guide to securing a medical approval for a prohibited substance or prohibited treatment method under FA Doping Control Regulations. Players and club medical staff should also consult Schedule 5 of FA Doping Control Regulations (see www.thefa.com) prior to making any application for a medical approval.

1. Checking Prohibited Status

The prohibited status of any medication can be checked at www.globaldro.co.uk. Non-prohibited medications can be used immediately once prescribed. If the medication is prohibited and there are no permitted alternatives, the player must comply with the applicable rules for medical approvals. Failure to do so can result in the player incurring an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV).

2. Which approval process should the player use for which substance?

There are two types of approval:

1. **Beta-2 Agonist Therapeutic Use Exemption**, used for two specific prohibited asthma medications
2. **Therapeutic Use Exemption**, used for all other prohibited substances and methods

Substance	Administration Route	Permitted?	Needs TUE?	Needs Beta-2 Agonist TUE?	Timing of Application	Exceptions to timing rules
• Terbutaline	Via inhalation	✗	✗	✓	In advance of treatment	Exception 1 may apply
• Formoterol	Via inhalation Maximum 36 micrograms over 24 hours.	✓	✗	✗	n/a	
• Salbutamol	Via inhalation Maximum 1600 micrograms over 24 hours	✓	✗	✗	n/a	
• Salmeterol	Via inhalation	✓	✗	✗	n/a	
• Glucocorticosteroids	Via inhalation or other non-systemic routes	✓	✗	✗	n/a	
• All other banned substances (includes all prohibited substances, treatment methods and administration routes not stated above)	Any administration route	✗	✓	✗	In advance of treatment	Exceptions 2 and 3 may apply

Exception 1: Retroactive Beta-2 Agonist TUE Applications (Applies to players outside the Premier League or Football League Championship) – Applications for terbutaline need only be submitted if an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) is returned from a drug test. This application must be made within five (5) working days of the AAF being returned.

Exception 2: Emergency TUE Applications (Applies to players in the Premier League, Football League Championship, Football League 1 and Football League 2) - These are permitted where there is insufficient time to apply for a TUE in advance. Applications are only approved where immediate treatment was essential, or in exceptional circumstances such as where there was insufficient opportunity for the player to submit, or for the UKAD TUE Committee to consider, an application prior to a drug test. Emergency TUE applications must be submitted within five (5) working days of treatment commencing.

Exception 3: Retroactive TUE Applications (Applies to players outside the Premier League, Football League Championship, Football League 1 and Football League 2) – Applications must be submitted at least 10 working days from the date that a player is drug tested.

3. How does the player get the approval?

UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) are the organisation responsible for granting medical approvals in English football, and each approval type requires a different application process (explained below). Note however that players who compete under the jurisdiction of other organisations (e.g. FIFA/UEFA), or who are members of a National Registered Testing Pool (NRTP) may be required to adhere to different rules. It is the player's responsibility to ensure that they follow the correct process and make the application to the correct organisation.

Exemption Type	Application to be completed by	Application form type	Supporting information required with application	Application made to	Response timescale	Duration of approval validity	Exceptions to application process
TUE	Doctor and player	FA TUE form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player's history of medical condition • Evidence of diagnosis (i.e. test results, consultant assessment) • Any alternative treatments trialed <p>(See WADA document http://www.wada-ama.org/en/Science-Medicine/TUE/Medical-information-to-support-the-decisions-of-TUECs/)</p>	UKAD (via fax, post or e-mail)	Within 30 days of application*	As stated on TUE approval form	Exceptions 1, 2 and 3 may apply
Beta-2 Agonist TUE	Doctor and player	FA Beta-2 Agonist TUE form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player's history of asthma • Lung function test results <p>(See Beta-2 Agonist TUE form for full details of requirements)</p>	UKAD (via fax, post or e-mail)	Within 30 days of application*	As stated on TUE approval form (usually 4 years)	Exceptions 1, 2 and 3 may apply

Exception 1: club or player is participating in UEFA/FIFA competition in which case UEFA/FIFA rules for medical approvals apply

Exception 2: Player is a member of the FIFA IRTP, in which case FIFA rules for medical approvals apply

Exception 3: Player is a member of the NRTP of their home country in which case the applicable national rules of membership may apply

* 30 days is the response timescale stated in the World Anti-Doping Agency International Standard for TUEs, however UKAD aim to review all applications within 10 working days of receipt.

4. What happens next?

Once an approval is confirmed, players are advised to take note of relevant expiry dates, and club medical staff are advised to retain records of all players' medical approvals. It is particularly important when a player is loaned or transferred to a club, that the club's medical staff ensure they are provided with up to date records of all valid approvals held by the player.