



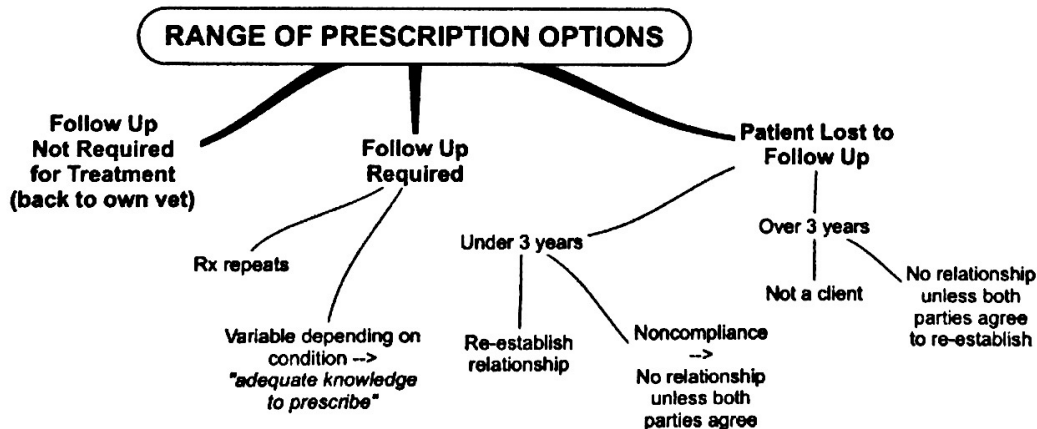
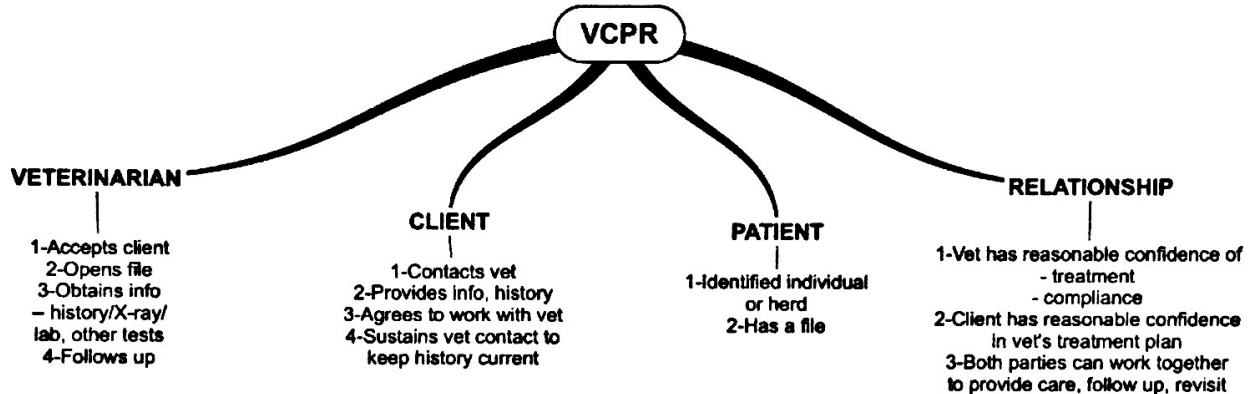
November 8<sup>th</sup> 2025

To Concerned NB Horse Owners,

The New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association is acutely aware of the issue of the provision of equine care, especially in under-served areas.

A couple of clarifications:

A "client" is someone who has created a file within the past 36 months. An emergency may, or may not, create an ongoing file if the veterinarian isn't able to accept new clients due to overload. This should be made clear at the time of the visit. If you have an active file, please maintain contact with this veterinarian to maintain the relationship critical to the provision of ongoing care. A horse seen 5, or 10 years ago, is no longer a "patient" until a new relationship is created.



We called a meeting of our equine practitioners, on October 29th, with the goal of formulating options to deal with the situation. Unfortunately, the ability to provide 24/7 ambulatory equine service to every corner of the province and to every caller is in the past. With the current workforce, and the distances involved, there is no going back. We have to move forward.

Suggestions include:

- A rotation of equine veterinarians that would accept trailered patients from outside of their usual practice area for emergency care
- The use of telemedicine for situations that don't demand critical care and the engagement of local veterinarians to maintain an inventory of equine pharmaceuticals to be dispensed with a remote prescription
- Wellness Clinics in under-serviced areas for routine vaccination, teeth floating and Coggins tests
- Training sessions for horse owners to learn injection technique and basic bandaging and wound care
- Provision for humane euthanasia in cases that horses are in distress and can't be transported

While these suggestions are maybe not ideal, they are what can be realistically provided. Local Horse Clubs banding together to purchase a stock trailer, or maintaining a list of members willing to trailer a horse to a veterinarian in an emergency are options to be explored.

The onus is on the horse owner to have an emergency plan in the event that their horse falls sick - like an escape plan in the event of fire, it's too late when your horse is thrashing in pain, and you haven't got any idea of what to do, to think of where, or who to call. This can't be stressed enough as sudden illness and natural disaster can strike at any time. Network, now. Create support and pool resources so that you are prepared.

In the upcoming months, we will be letting you know about Wellness Clinics and training sessions as they are organized.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding,

Sincerely,



Dr. M.E. Thémens  
Registrar NBVMA/AMVN-B