



Therapeutic Use Exemptions

The NFL recognizes that within the list of prohibited substances there are medications that are appropriate for the treatment of specific medical conditions. For athletes who require the use of a prohibited substance to treat an appropriately diagnosed medical problem, a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) may be requested. In reviewing a TUE request, the Independent Administrator of the NFL Policy on Performance Enhancing Substances and the Medical Advisor for the Policy and Program for Substances of Abuse have sole discretion to require medical evidence beyond that normally necessary to initiate treatment by the medical community.

TUEs may be granted by the Independent Administrator and/or Medical Advisor after review of a player's TUE application. The TUE application should be filled out and submitted by the player's treating physician and should include all pertinent medical records documenting the diagnosis. After review of each case, the advisors may require further diagnostic testing or previous medical records, and/or may utilize the services of expert consultants. The advisors will have the final decision whether to grant a TUE.

The following general requirements apply to all TUE requests:

1. The medication must be necessary and indicated for treatment of the specific medical problem for which it has been requested;
2. Acceptable alternative treatments with medications that are not prohibited were attempted but failed, or reasons for not prescribing these alternative treatments have been presented;
3. Appropriate evaluation has been completed and all medical records documenting the diagnosis have been submitted for review; and
4. The applicant may not begin use of the prohibited substance until after the TUE is granted.

Effective immediately, a TUE may be granted retroactively only if emergency use of the prohibited substance is necessary to avoid morbidity or mortality of disease or disorder. TUEs for draft-eligible players will continue to be reviewed and granted prior to or following pre-employment tests at Combine or during visits to individual team facilities.

In addition, specific requirements have been established and must be satisfied in order to obtain a TUE for the following conditions:

- ADD/ADHD
- hypertension
- hormonal deficiency due to either primary or secondary hypogonadism and/or hypopituitarism.

Any player who seeks to be treated by a physician with a prohibited substance for any condition must have that physician file a TUE application with the Independent Administrator. If a player tests positive for a prohibited substance without having been granted a TUE, this constitutes a positive test and will be referred for administrative action.