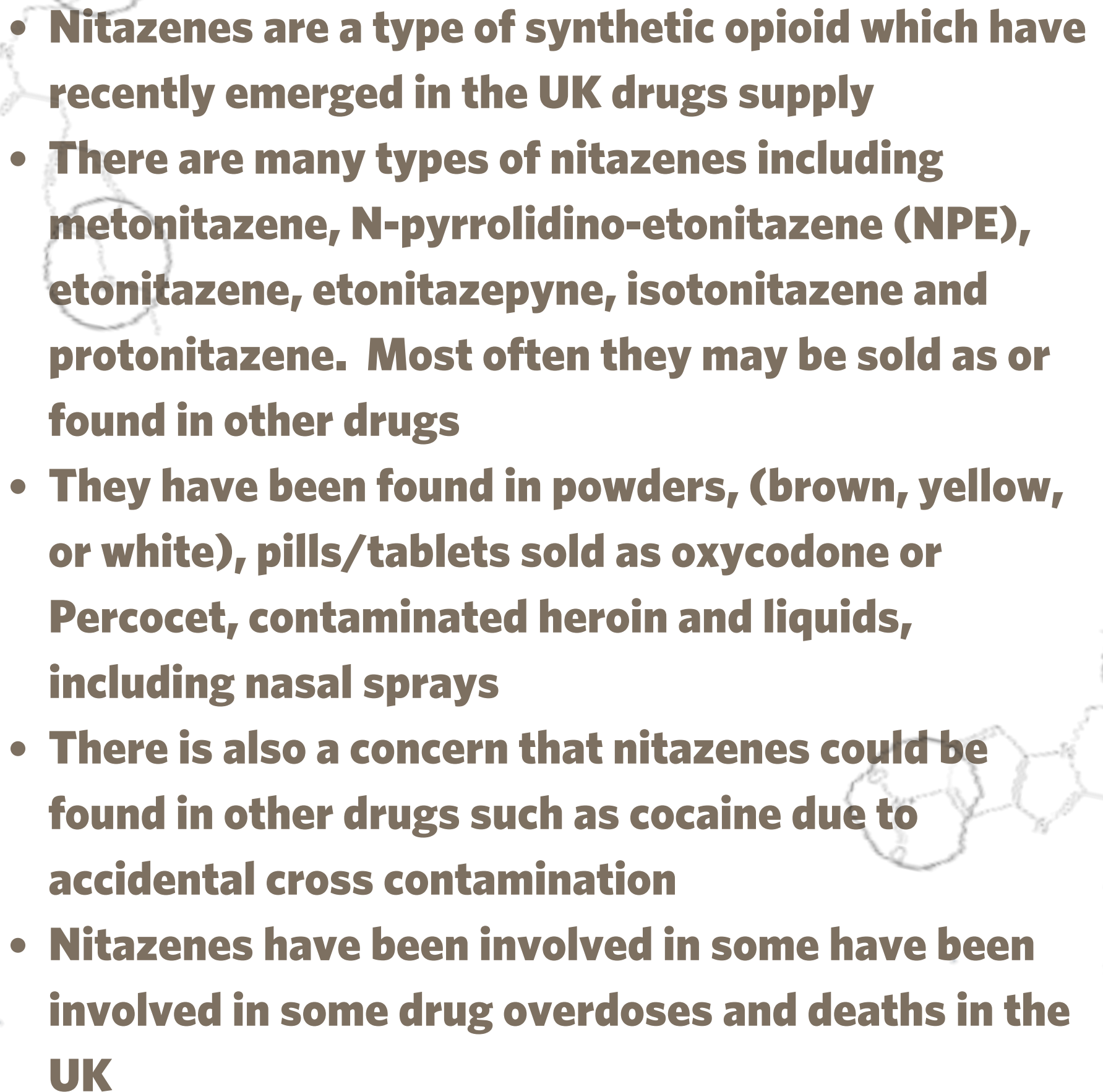





# What are nitazenes?

[www.crew.scot](http://www.crew.scot)

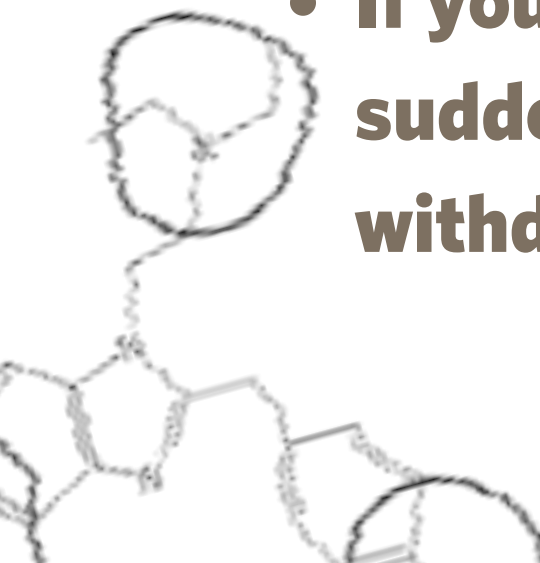


- 
- **Nitazenes are a type of synthetic opioid which have recently emerged in the UK drugs supply**
  - **There are many types of nitazenes including metonitazene, N-pyrrolidino-etonitazene (NPE), etonitazene, etonitazepyne, isotonitazene and protonitazene. Most often they may be sold as or found in other drugs**
  - **They have been found in powders, (brown, yellow, or white), pills/tablets sold as oxycodone or Percocet, contaminated heroin and liquids, including nasal sprays**
  - **There is also a concern that nitazenes could be found in other drugs such as cocaine due to accidental cross contamination**
  - **Nitazenes have been involved in some have been involved in some drug overdoses and deaths in the UK**

- 
- **The effects are similar to other opioid drugs such as morphine and heroin but will be felt more strongly from much smaller amounts**
  - **Nitazenes can vary in potency. Some are thought to be over 600 times more potent than heroin meaning that a fatal dose could be as small as two grains of sand**
  - **The effects may be short lasting with a strong urge to re-dose**
  - **The amount of nitazene type drugs found in tablets, pills, powders varies so it would be almost impossible to judge an accurate dose**
- 

- 
- **Opioid drugs can cause your breathing and heart-rate to slow to life threatening and fatal levels**
  - **Higher doses of opioid drugs increase this risk of overdose**
  - **This risk is increased if mixing with any other drug, particularly any 'downer' type drugs such as alcohol, other opioids, benzodiazepines (e.g. vallies, Xanax), GHB and ketamine**
  - **Test your drugs - this allows you to be more aware of unexpected contents**

**[www.crew.scot/how-do-i-test-my-drugs](http://www.crew.scot/how-do-i-test-my-drugs)**

- 
- **Start with a test dose**
  - **If you have been taking nitazenes and stop suddenly you may experience opioid withdrawal symptoms**

**Familiarise yourself with the signs of an opioid overdose so that you feel confident about what to do to help.**

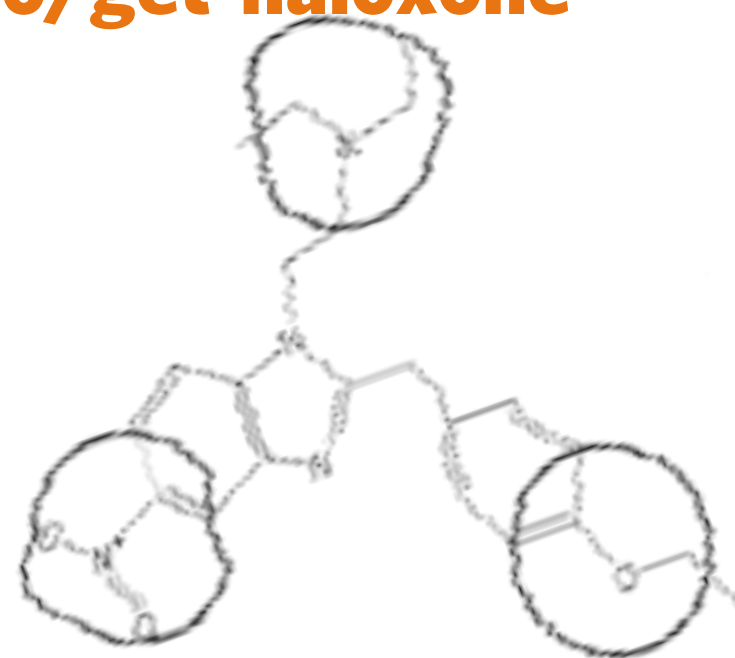
## **Signs of an Overdose**

- **Confusion**
- **Unconsciousness – won't wake with a shout or a shake**
- **Severe nausea and vomiting**
- **Fitting**
- **Difficulty breathing**
- **Snoring/raspy breathing**
- **Blue/pale tingeing of knees, hands and lips**
- **Slow or erratic pulse (heartbeat)**
- **Pale, cold and clammy skin**
- **Sometimes synthetic opioids like fentanyl can cause seizure-like symptoms (fits/muscle spasm/rigid or tight muscles/tightness in the chest that makes breathing difficult)**



- Overdoses involving nitazenes can be reversed using the life-saving medicine naloxone hydrochloride - **you may need to administer multiple doses**
- Prenoxad and Nyxoid are two medical products containing naloxone hydrochloride
- In Scotland the provision of naloxone is **FREE** and anyone aged 16 and over can grab a naloxone kit from the Crew Drop-in **[www.crew.scot/what-we-do/get-naloxone](http://www.crew.scot/what-we-do/get-naloxone)**



Nasal and  
intramuscular (IM)  
naloxone  
preparations



**[www.crew.scot](http://www.crew.scot)**

- 
- **Naloxone should be given to anyone who is non-responsive and displaying the signs of an overdose**
  - **If you are unsure if the person has taken opioids, **always use naloxone as this will not cause any harm** and could save their life**
  - **If someone has been taking opioid drugs and other 'downer' drugs such as alcohol or benzos (e.g. vallies or Xanax) then naloxone will not reverse the effects of these drugs. **You should still administer naloxone** as this will reverse the effects of the opioids and allow the person's body the chance to respond to the 'downer' effects of any other drugs and could save their life!**
- 



# Administering Naloxone

- **Always call 999 in an emergency**
- **Put the person into the recovery position if possible (as shown on next graphic)**
- **IM naloxone should be administered into the muscle at the top of the thigh**
- **It can also be administered into the top part of the arm between the elbow and shoulder where vaccines are usually administered**
- **If someone has not responded to the first dose of IM naloxone administered into their thigh then a second dose could be administered into the top of their arm to increase the effectiveness of the medicine**
- **If the person stops breathing perform CPR (chest compressions and rescue breaths) where possible**



# THE RECOVERY POSITION

**1. Put the hand closest to you by the head (as if they were waving).**

**2. Put the arm furthest away from you across the chest, so that the back of the hand rests against the cheek.**

**3. Hold the hand and lift up the knee furthest away from you, then turn them on their side by pushing down on their knee.**

**4. Open their airway by gently tilting their head back and lifting their chin, and check that nothing is blocking their airway.**





**[www.sfad.org.uk](http://www.sfad.org.uk)**

Family support, bereavement support, telephone and webchat, postal naloxone.



**[www.crew.scot](http://www.crew.scot)**

Face to face and digital Drop-in, information, in person naloxone provision.



**ScottishDrugServices**  
Directory

**[www.scottishdrugservices.com](http://www.scottishdrugservices.com)**

Online directory contact information and details for over 200 agencies in Scotland who can help with drug treatment and care.



**Scottish**  
**Needle Exchange**  
Directory

**[www.needleexchange.scot](http://www.needleexchange.scot)**

The Needle Exchange Directory provides a list of all the services that provide injecting equipment in Scotland.



**SDF**  
Scottish Drugs  
Forum

**[www.sdf.org.uk](http://www.sdf.org.uk)**

Scotland's national membership organisation offering training, resources and policy work.

# withyou



**[www.wearewithyou.org.uk](http://www.wearewithyou.org.uk)**

Free, confidential, online and face to face support services for people in England and Scotland.

**[www.exchangesupplies.org](http://www.exchangesupplies.org)**

A social enterprise working to improve the harm reduction response to drug use by developing products and information for injecting drug users, drug services, and needle exchanges.



**[www.wedinos.org](http://www.wedinos.org)**

Welsh Emerging Drugs and Identification of Novel Substances - anonymous and free postal drug testing service.

**Release**  
Drugs, The Law & Your Rights

**[www.release.org.uk](http://www.release.org.uk)**

Drugs, the law and your rights.

Free legal advice helpline: **0207 324 2989**



**[www.euronpud.net](http://www.euronpud.net)**

European Network of People Who Use Drugs works with all drug user groups in Europe.



**[www.crew.scot](http://www.crew.scot)**