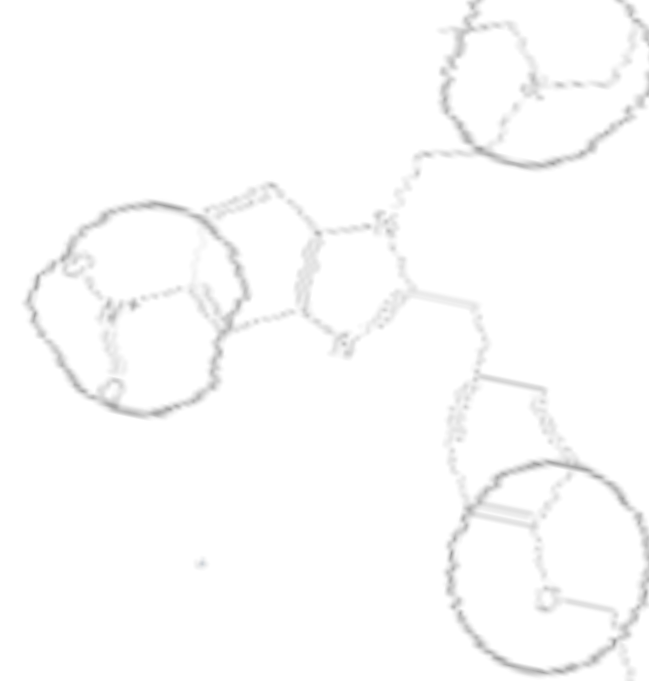


What are nitazenes?




www.crew.scot

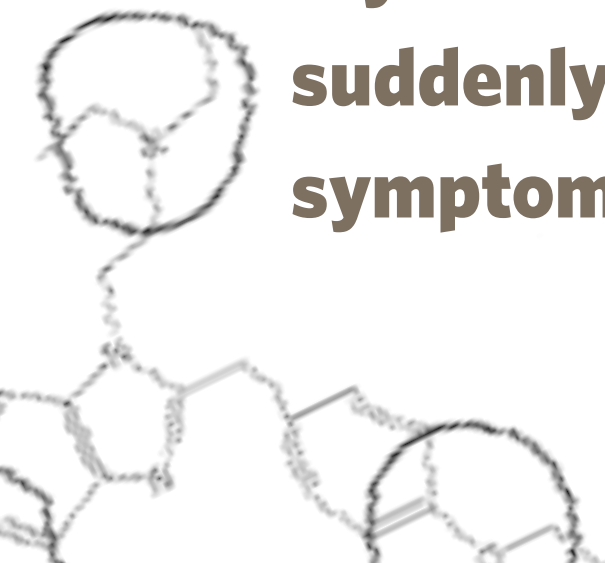


- **Nitazenes are a type of synthetic opioid, which have recently emerged in the UK drugs supply.**
- **There are many types of nitazenes including metonitazene, N-pyrrolidino-etonitazene (NPE), etonitazene, etonitazepyne, isotonitazene and protonitazene. Most often they may be sold as or found in other drugs.**
- **They have been found been found in powders (brown/yellow/white), contaminated heroin and pills/tablets such as oxycodone (an opioid) and diazepam (a benzodiazepine), 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.**
- **We also know that nitazenes have been involved in some drug overdoses and deaths in the UK and Ireland.**

- **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 500 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

- **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


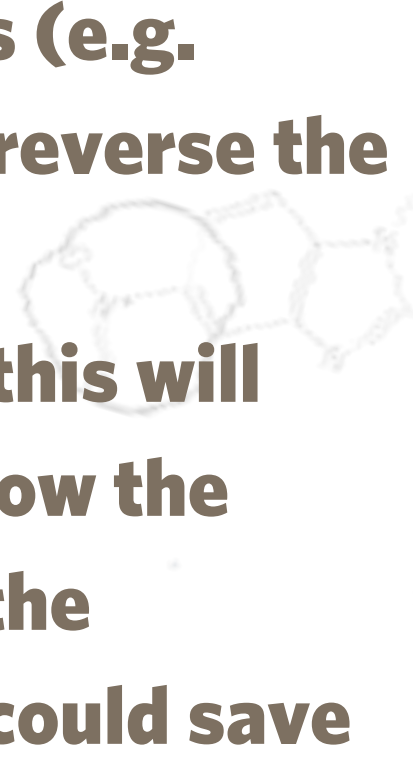
- Confusion
- Unconsciousness – won't wake with a shout or a shake
- Severe nausea and vomiting
- Fitting
- Difficulty breathing
- Snoring/raspy breathing
- Blue/pale tingeing of knees, hands and lips
- Slow or erratic pulse (heartbeat)
- Pale, cold and clammy skin
- Sometimes synthetic opioids like 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 14 and over can grab a naloxone kit from the Crew Drop-in**
www.crew.scot/what-we-do/get-naloxone



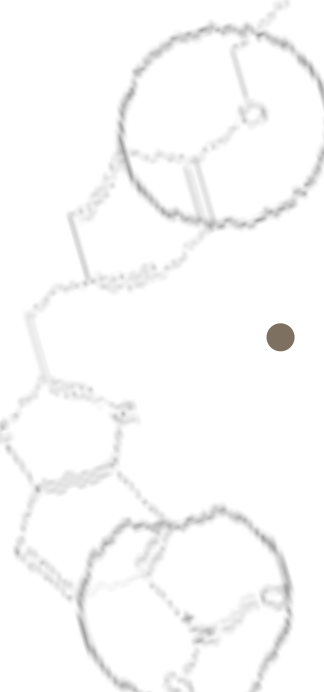
Nasal and intramuscular (IM) naloxone preparations



- 
- **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.





Scottish Families

Affected by Alcohol & Drugs

www.sfad.org.uk

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



www.crew.scot

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



Scottish Drug Services
Directory

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

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

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

withyou



www.wearewithyou.org.uk

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

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

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

Drugs, the law and your rights.

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



www.euronpud.net

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



www.crew.scot