



13 DECEMBER 2024

PROTONITAZENE FOUND IN 'OXYCODONE' PILL

A RED/PINK BEAR PRESS PILL WITH A 'Y' ON FRONT AND BACK that was expected to contain oxycodone, was instead found to contain the novel synthetic opioid, protonitazene. No oxycodone was detected.

Protonitazene is significantly stronger than fentanyl. The sample was acquired from the dark web (vendor name not disclosed). This is the fourth nitazene-related community notice CanTEST has issued since services commenced in 2022. Nitazenes have been detected in several parts of Australia, and in various forms. Any type of drug sourced from the unregulated market (including convincing-looking counterfeit pharmaceuticals) may contain nitazenes or other dangerous substances.

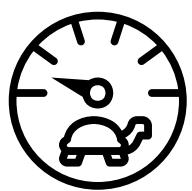
All nitazenes carry a risk of fatal overdose. There is no safe way to use them. Nitazenes are known to cause an opioid-like overdose (lowered/loss of consciousness, breathing slowly or not at all, tiny/pinpoint pupils, discoloured lips/nails, cold or clammy skin, choking/coughing/gurgling or snoring sounds are all potential signs). Nitazenes can cause multiple overdoses over time and people who experience a nitazene overdose require ongoing monitoring.

Always assume that your drugs may not be what you expect: With this particular sample, the appearance alone (which has similarities to an MDMA pill press) may cause a user to assume that the contents are different to what they really are.

EFFECTS

REDUCE THE HARM

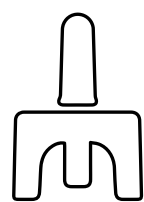
(Naloxone can reverse a protonitazene overdose)



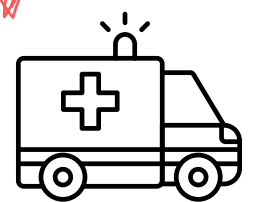
START LOW, GO SLOW



TEST IT BEFORE YOU TAKE IT



CARRY NALOXONE



POSSIBLE OVERDOSE? CALL 000