

31 MAY 2025

PROTONITAZENE FOUND IN CRUSHED PARTIAL 'OXYCODONE' PILL

A CRUSHED PARTIAL BLUE PILL

with an 'M' on one side and what the client reported as an '80' and break line on the rear - possibly a misread '30' - was expected to contain oxycodone but instead the potent synthetic opioid protonitazene was detected. No oxycodone was detected. The pill, which appeared poorly pressed, was sourced locally (ACT region). Protonitazene is significantly stronger than fentanyl.

This is the fifth nitazene-related community notice CanTEST has issued since services commenced in 2022. Nitazenes have been detected with increasing frequency 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. Some counterfeit pharmaceuticals can look very convincing and even be in 'branded' blister packs or packaging that appears authentic.

EFFECTS

REDUCE THE HARM



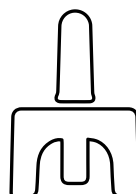
(Naloxone can reverse a protonitazene overdose)



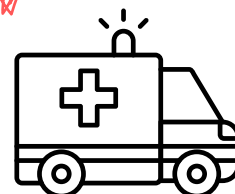
START LOW,
GO SLOW



TEST IT BEFORE
YOU TAKE IT



CARRY
NALOXONE



POSSIBLE OVERDOSE?
CALL 000