CANTEST COMMUNITY NOTICE CANTEST COMMUNITY NOTICE

22 SEPTEMBER 2025

ISOTOCYANOZENE FOUND IN 'OPIOID' CAPSULE

A CAPSULE FILLED WITH WHITE POWDER that was expected to contain an unknown opioid was found to contain the novel nitazene isotocyanozene (5-cyano-isotodesnitazene). While nitazenes have been detected in several parts of Australia, including at CanTEST in Canberra, this is the first detection of isotocyanozene at a drug collection service in Australia.

There is no readily available data on isotocyanozene globally.

EFFECTS

The potency of isotocyanozene is unknown, however nitazenes are known to be 100s or even 1000s of times more potent than heroin or morphine.
All nitazenes carry a risk of fatal overdose - even in very small amounts. Nitazenes are known to cause 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.

Information on this substance is extremely limited. If considering using, please note that there is no evidence-based information on safer use strategies for isotocyanozene. Being informed, carrying naloxone, and staying with others can reduce potential harm.

REDUCE THE HARM

(Naloxone can reverse a nitazene overdose - though multiple doses may be required)

START LOW, GO SLOW

TEST IT BEFORE YOU TAKE IT

CARRY NALOXONE

POSSIBLE OVERDOSE? CALL 000