

Harm Reduction Information

SYNTHETIC DRUGS ALERT

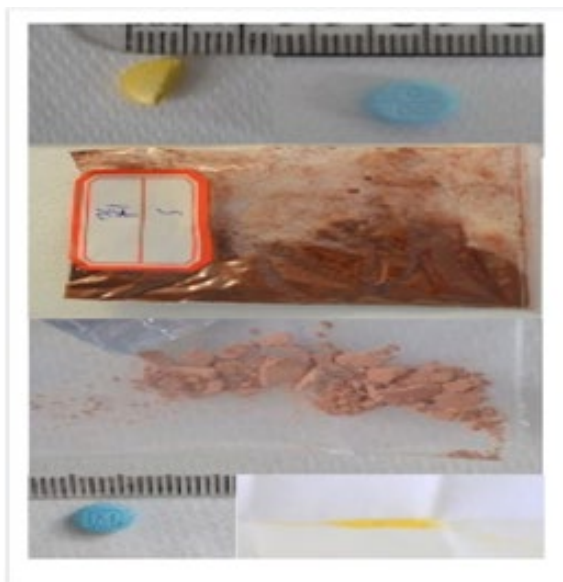
**Please feel free to call and
ask to speak to NEON on
0131 537 8300 for any
guidance & support.**

Harm Reduction Team
22-24 Spittal Street
Edinburgh
EH3 9DU

SYNTHETIC DRUGS ALERT

The Scottish Ambulance Service drugs early warning system has highlighted increasing levels of drug overdose and unexpected effects in Edinburgh City.

This leaflet aims to provide information relating to synthetic drugs, harm reduction information and useful online resources.



What do synthetic drugs look like?

Synthetic drugs can come in powder and pill form and have been detected all across the UK particularly in the heroin/opioid supply.

Synthetic Opioids such as 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.

Harm Reduction Information

- **Always wash your hands and injecting sites before use.**

More information available from:

www.sdf.org.uk/resource-type/bacterial-infection-drug-use/



- **Always use new clean sterile equipment for every injecting episode and use within a clean environment.**

Link for list of providers across Lothian:

www.services.nhsllothian.scot/harmreductionteam/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2024/01/All-IEP-Services-in-Lothian.pdf



- **Test dose - always start low and go slow, even if using from the same batch. Drugs may not have been mixed well and could contain different amounts of the drug.**
 - **Be overdose aware - know how to respond to an overdose.**
- Information:

www.harmreduction.org/issues/overdose-prevention/overview/overdose-basics/responding-to-opioid-overdose/



Naloxone

- **Never use alone – consider buddying up with another person.**
When using together/in a group – one person use then wait on effects before others use.
- **Always carry Naloxone/Nyxoid on you. More than one kit may be required, always aim to have at least 2 kits.**

Link for more information on how to administer:

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.3054.pdf

(www.medicines.org.uk)



- **Naloxone/Nyxoid doses should be administered one dose at a time** – wait 2 mins between each dose and check for breathing. The person may not regain consciousness straight away.
- **Naloxone/Nyxoid is free to anyone over 16.**
Available from Harm Reduction Team, 22-24 Spittal Street.
Follow link for services in your area:

Take Home Naloxone - Harm Reduction Team

services.nhsllothian.scot/harmreductionteam/take-home-naloxone/#:~:text=Naloxone%20is%20available%20free%20at,and%20associated%20areas%20through out%20Lothian.

