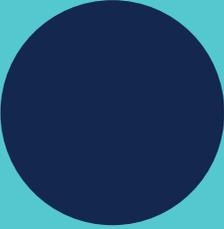


# SEDATIVE POISONING IN THE ILLEGAL DRUG SUPPLY

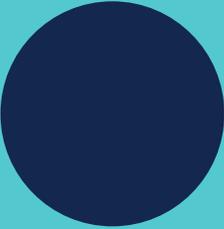


People who have been using street opioids have likely been exposed to **benzodiazepines (benzos) and benzo-like drugs like etizolam, or tranquilizers like xylazine**. These substances have been showing up in the illegal drug supply in Manitoba, especially mixed with opioids, and it's hard to know if they are in your drugs.

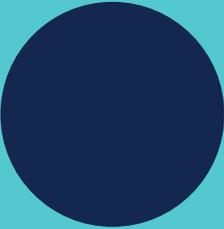
For more information see:

[Analyzed Drug Report - Drug Analysis Service | Public Health Infobase - Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

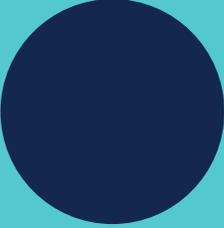
[Drug alerts - Street Connections](#)



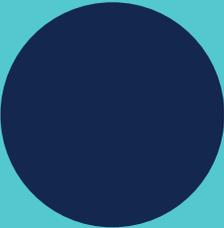
**Naloxone can temporarily reverse the effects of opioids, but not sedatives such as benzodiazepines, etizolam, or xylazine.** Sedatives and opioids have similar effects and overdose or poisoning may look the same, but they are complex and require medical attention. Naloxone administration may remove the opioids from the picture and the person may begin breathing again, but the sedatives may cause them remain unconscious.



In someone with a tolerance to opioids, too much naloxone can cause withdrawal (e.g. vomiting, sweating, severe pain) and may make the situation worse. Take home naloxone is a tool to support care while waiting for emergency medical services to arrive. **It is always important to call 911 when managing a drug toxicity, even if you have naloxone.** For more information see: [About the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act - Canada.ca](#)



**Dependence to and withdrawal from benzodiazepines or etizolam may occur after using them for as little as a few weeks.** Increasing exposure to benzodiazepines puts many people who use drugs at risk for withdrawal symptoms. These can include agitation, sleeplessness, and irregular body functions (e.g. heart rate, blood pressure, temperature, urinary function) which may be difficult to tell from opioid withdrawal or stimulant toxicity.



## **RESOURCES FOR SEDATIVE POISONING IN ILLEGAL DRUG SUPPLY FROM BC TOWARD THE HEART**

[Do I Keep Giving Naloxone](#)

[Responding to an Opioid Overdose with Benzos or Etizolam](#)

[Withdrawal from Benzodiazepines in BC's Illicit Drug Supply](#)

[Benzodiazepines found in Opioids in British Columbia](#)

[Xylazine](#)



**PREPARE AND TAKE CARE**