

DRUG WARNING

Nitazenes detected in tablets in the Northern Territory

Know the risks

Nitazenes are synthetic opioids that are stronger and may be longer acting than many other opioids. They are up to 500 times more potent than heroin.

Nitazenes are dangerous and vary in strength. Some are so potent that there is no safe dose. The purity can also vary within a single batch. This means there is no safe way to take drugs that may contain Nitazenes.

Nitazene use has been linked to death and serious harms in other States and Territories and has been detected in drugs such as MDMA and cocaine.

The risks of overdose are increased if you:

- Use drugs alone.
- Use nitazenes or other opioids if you have not used them before.
- Use drugs again after a break.
- Use with other drugs (like alcohol, benzodiazepines, ketamine, or GHB).
- Use a new batch.

Signs of opioid overdose

- Pinpoint pupils
- Drowsiness
- Loss of consciousness
- Slow breathing/snoring
- Skin/lips turning blue/grey.

Drugs seized in the NT have been found to contain Nitazenes. This is the first detection of this substance in the NT.

Life-saving medicine

Naloxone is a life-saving medicine that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone is available in a very easy to use nasal spray and as a pre-filled injection.

You should carry naloxone if you are using drugs such as cocaine, ketamine, methamphetamine, MDMA, or opioids, or if you are hosting or going to a party where drugs will be present.

You can get naloxone for free without a prescription from pharmacies, needle & syringe programs, and opioid treatment services.

If you've taken naloxone, always ring 000. The effects of naloxone may wear off, and ongoing doses and hospital treatment may be needed.

Getting help

- If someone shows signs of an opioid overdose, call **Triple Zero (000)** and start CPR immediately
- For free and confidential advice, call [Alcohol and Drug Information Service](#) (ADIS) on **1800 250 015**
- For information on adverse effects from drugs, call the [Poisons Information Centre](#) on **13 11 26**