

DRUG WARNING

Yellow powder containing potent synthetic opioid (isotonitazene) circulating on the NSW Central Coast



Isotonitazene has been associated with serious harms in NSW. It is possibly related to recent deaths which remain under investigation.

Know the risks

- Drug samples in NSW have been found to contain isotonitazene, a potent opioid of the nitazene class.
- Nitazenes can be as strong as, or stronger than fentanyl and cause slow breathing or death.
- Naloxone can temporarily reverse an overdose from opioids, such as nitazenes.
- You are at increased risk of overdose if you:
 - use drugs when you are alone
 - use drugs again after a break
 - mix different drugs. Alcohol, benzos and opioids are very dangerous to combine.
- Fentanyl test strips are **unable** to detect these nitazene opioids.

Effects to look out for

- Opioid overdose symptoms include any of: pin-point pupils, drowsiness, loss of consciousness, slow breathing/snoring or skin turning blue or grey.

Getting help

If you see the warning signs of overdose:

Seek help immediately from your nearest emergency department or call **Triple Zero (000)**.

You won't get into trouble for seeking help.

If someone is not breathing, start **CPR** if you know how.

Use **naloxone** if you have it. Call '000' even if naloxone has been given.



Support and advice

For free and confidential advice:

- Call [Alcohol and Drug Information Service \(ADIS\)](#) on 1800 250 015 at any time 24/7. Start a [Web Chat](#) with an ADIS counsellor Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm.
- Call [NUAA](#) on 1800 644 413 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) to speak to a peer or visit www.nuaa.org.au for a range of resources on opioids and naloxone.
- Call the [NSW Poisons Information Centre](#) on 13 11 26 for information on adverse effects from drugs.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for fact sheets and other resources.



Take Home Naloxone Program

- **Naloxone** is an easy to use, life-saving medicine that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. People at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose or who may witness an overdose can get naloxone for free without a prescription from some NSW community pharmacies, NSW Health needle and syringe programs, opioid treatment services and NUAA.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for participating sites and more information on take-home naloxone.
- NUAA can mail you naloxone for free in a discreet package. Order via their online shop: shop.nuaa.org.au or call (02) 8354 7343.

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/public-drug-alerts/Pages/default.aspx>

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