

# DRUG WARNING

**'Red Bull' logo red/orange rectangular tablets sold as MDMA (ecstasy) found to contain a nitazene (potent opioid) and no MDMA**

**'Red Bull' tablets sold as MDMA (ecstasy) caused multiple hospitalisations in Sydney last weekend. Analysis of one tablet identified a potent opioid (a nitazene) and no MDMA.**



Tablet appearance is not a reliable indicator of drug contents

## Know the risks

- 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. Higher doses of naloxone may be required to reverse nitazene overdose.
- You are at **increased risk of harm** if you:
  - use drugs when you are alone
  - take opioids for the first time, or 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.
- Nitazene use has been linked to death and other serious harms.
- Exercise extreme caution with 'Red Bull' tablets. 'Red Bull' tablets have also been found to contain multiple other substances in the past 12 months.

## 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

If you or others experience these symptoms after taking drugs, get help immediately.

## Getting help

**If you or your friends 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 medical care.**

**Start CPR if someone is not breathing.**

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



## Take Home Naloxone Program

- If you use any drugs you should carry naloxone. Drugs sold as cocaine and MDMA have been found to contain opioids.
- **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](http://shop.nuaa.org.au) or call (02) 9171 6650.

## 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 [NUAA](#) for a range of resources.
- 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.



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

Issued 29 January 2024 © NSW Health.

