

# ALERT



**SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS**  
**DRUGS IN SCOTLAND ARE CHANGING**

[www.stopthedeaths.com](http://www.stopthedeaths.com)

[www.scottishdrugservices.com](http://www.scottishdrugservices.com)

**SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS  
INCLUDING NITAZENES  
HAVE BEEN FOUND IN SOME  
OF THE DRUGS SUPPLIED IN  
SCOTLAND — INCLUDING  
HEROIN, BENZOS AND  
POSSIBLY COCAINE AND  
OTHER DRUGS. THIS HAS  
CAUSED PEOPLE TO HAVE  
EXTREMELY BAD  
EXPERIENCES INCLUDING  
SUDDEN AND NEAR FATAL  
OVERDOSES AND HAS  
CAUSED DEATHS.**

# PROTECT

## YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS



### Protect yourself

Take the smallest dose you can every time you start a new batch. Give your body time and wait as long as you can between doses.

### Remember

Some drugs stay in your body long after the effects wear off.

Take extra care if using more than one drug – heroin, methadone, benzos, cocaine, pregabalin and alcohol can increase the chance of an overdose.

### Overdose alert

- Unresponsive (won't wake when shaken)
- Snoring or noisy breathing
- Blue lips
- Shallow breathing
- Pale skin
- Pinpoint pupils

*(it won't always be all of these – if someone is unresponsive you should act)*

### Together

Try to avoid using alone.

These drugs can cause a **very sudden overdose** which can be life-threatening. Use in other people's company and try to take turns so that there is always someone there who is able to help if someone overdoses.

# Emergency? 999

If someone is unresponsive, you should **get an ambulance as soon as possible**. Administer naloxone and phone 999. Be open with the call handler – if you know or think drugs are involved then tell them what you know and what you are seeing.

**Stay with the person** until the emergency services arrives.

## Carry naloxone

Make sure you and your friends have naloxone and know how to use it – **pick up an extra naloxone kit**, the person may need more than usual if synthetic opioids like nitazenes are involved. Use the standard dose and repeat as necessary but **you may need to administer more doses than usual**.

There is a risk the person will become unresponsive again and still be in overdose. Stay with them and continue to administer naloxone if they become unresponsive again.

Pick up naloxone from a drug service, pharmacy, homelessness service or from the national naloxone click & deliver service - [sfad.org.uk](http://sfad.org.uk).

You may not know opioids are in the drugs you are using. Synthetic opioids may be mixed in any drugs – **naloxone should be used on anyone who is unresponsive and appears to have had an overdose** no matter what drug is thought to have been used.

## Treatment

Being in treatment reduces harm and overdose risks. New treatment standards mean that you can get **rapid access to treatment**. Consider accessing treatment and contact your local drug service.



National naloxone  
click & deliver service



# STOP THE DEATHS