

Preparedness for synthetic opioids

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

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EU EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ADVISORY

Increases in nitazene opioid detections and poisonings - Europe, 2022-ongoing



HSE Drug Warning

January 12th 2024

Extreme Risk

A red alert remains in place for people using heroin in Dublin and Cork. A nitazene drug is being sold falsely described as 'new' heroin or 'strong' heroin.

Ongoing concern

Nitazenes are strong synthetic opioids that can cause serious overdoses, hospitalisation and drug-related death.

Recommendation

Mind yourself, care for others and make a safety plan.
Access, carry and use naloxone. This could save your own or someone else's life.
It's safer not to use drugs at all. If you use heroin, follow harm reduction advice. Access drug treatment to protect against overdose.

Appearance

Irish overdoses have been linked with a light brown/tan powder containing a nitazene drug called 'N-pyrrolidino protonitazene'. Nitazene drugs have also been identified in illicit tablets in the UK.

Do not buy:

- new types of drugs
- new batches
- from new sources

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