

Drug Containing Medetomidine

What you need to know.

WARNING: Medetomidine detected in Peterborough's opioid drug supply.

August 29, 2024

Mass spectrometer drug testing has confirmed the presence of **medetomidine** in Peterborough's drug supply. Medetomidine, similar to xylazine, is a veterinary tranquilizer that has strong sedative effects and is not approved for human use. Medetomidine is considered more potent than xylazine, which means it can be longer acting and produce greater sedation.

Drug samples checked in Peterborough have shown to contain various kinds of tranquilizer substances, including xylazine (also known as 'Tranq'), benzodiazepines (also known as 'Benzos', often prescribed for mental health conditions), and now medetomidine. When tranquilizers are 'cut' or mixed with other unregulated drugs, like opioids, they can greatly increase the risk of drug poisoning (or overdose) for those who use them.

Recognize the Signs of Drug Poisoning with Sedatives

Peterborough Public Health encourages everyone to recognize the signs of a poisoning from drugs containing sedatives:

- Drowsiness
- Slow breathing
- Slow heartrate
- Low blood-pressure

When mixed with opioids, sedative effects can be more severe. Including,

- Blackout periods, potentially lasting hours
- Coma

Protect Yourself:



Don't Use Alone. Fix with a friend, visit the Consumption Treatment Services (CTS) site at 220 Simcoe Street (open 9:30am - 9pm, 7 days/week), or call the National Overdose Response Service at 1-888-688-6677.



Start Low, Go Slow. Only use a very small amount. Use new equipment every time and never share supplies.



Inject Safely. Take your time finding veins. Use new equipment every time and never share supplies. Do not touch or lick sterile needles. Do not attempt to sharpen or sterilize used needles. Clean injection sites well.



Use Naloxone and Monitor Breathing. Naloxone does not work on medetomidine or other tranquilizers, but will help with any opioids that may be present. Monitor breathing regularly. Call 911 if breathing is shallow, erratic, or absent. Find where to get a kit: www.ontario.ca/page/where-get-free-naloxone-kit



Check Your Drugs. Visit the CTS to check your drugs using fentanyl, benzodiazepine, and xylazine test strips. FT-IR testing is available with limited hours.

If you need help or have questions:



**Peterborough
Public Health**

705-743-1000

www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca

For naloxone & harm reduction supplies contact:

PARN... 705-749-9110

FourCAST... 705-876-1292

360 Clinic... 705-874-3900

Canadian Mental Health Association... 705-748-6711