

# Nitazenes - Important information

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Highly potent synthetic opioids called nitazenes have been **found in pills and powders resembling benzodiazepines, oxycodone, and heroin across the UK**. You can't tell they are there by looking or smelling, but just a tiny amount could be **fatal**.

Nitazenes are **50-500x more potent** than heroin, and are really easy to overdose on, **even in small amounts**. They are not licensed for medical use, and they have caused confirmed deaths.

## Where are they turning up?

- Unregulated pills resembling **diazepam, xanax or oxycodone**
- Street **heroin**
- Nitazene in **powder form** (tested by us as a pale green powder)

There is a risk of nitazenes turning up in drugs you might not expect. You can't tell by looking - always test your drugs.

## What do they do?

Nitazenes are **faster acting and more unpredictable** than heroin. People report passing out quickly - sometimes experiencing no high and sudden collapse.

Effects can include euphoria, drowsiness, pain relief, confusion, dangerously slow breathing or decreased heart rate.



Image of pills tested by The Loop to contain a nitazene - pale green with OP on one side and 80 on the other.

## Overdose signs to watch out for

- Shallow, irregular or no breathing
- Won't respond to shouting or shaking
- Raspy breathing, 'snoring', gurgling sounds
- Blue or grey lips, fingers or eyelids
- Sudden unconsciousness or collapse

**Act fast - don't wait for them to come round.**

**Keep yourself and those you are with safer with this harm reduction advice**

## #GoSlowStayLow

- Don't take drugs alone.
- When taking drugs with others, **stagger doses** so at least one of you can respond in an emergency.
- Avoid taking with alcohol or other downers eg. benzodiazepines.
- Test your drugs using **nitazene test strips** and check your drugs with The Loop.
- Nitazene test strips are available from a local drug service or online.
- **Always carry naloxone to help counteract opioid overdose** - this can be accessed through local drugs services too, with some offering click and deliver.



Image of Naloxone, an emergency overdose antidote