



Drug Alert

Medetomidine/Dexmedetomidine

February 7, 2024



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

What is it? It is a tranquilizer used on large animals. It is not for human use. More dangerous than Xylazine!

Sold as/in: Mixed into unregulated drugs detected by Toronto's Drug Checking Service for the first time.

Risk: Increase risk and severity of an overdose. These drugs are more potent than Xylazine, producing longer and stronger sedation effects.

Side Effects: Altered level of consciousness not fixable with Naloxone.
Tranquilizers increase potency of opioid increasing risk for overdose, fixable with Naloxone.
Increased risk of death due to drug poisoning and long periods of unconsciousness.

What does an overdose look like?

- Similar to an opioid overdose:
- slowed/irregular breathing
- loss of consciousness
- low blood pressure and heart rate
- drowsiness
- confusion
- slurred speech
- blurred vision

Ways to stay safe

Try not to use alone

- Buddy up with someone you trust.
- Don't use at the same time. Make sure the other person is okay before you use.

Carry Naloxone and know how to use it

- Visit Northwestern Health Unit for a kit & refresher on how to save a life.
- If you think someone is overdosing, give Naloxone!

If you must use alone, have a safety plan

- Get someone to check on you in person or by phone.
- Download the lifeguard app - it could save your life!
- Call NORS before you use 1-888-688-NORS (6677).

See a health care provider if:

- you have a wound - left untreated, it could lead to amputation.
- you need to talk about an overdose or other experience.
- you need other health care.

Call 911 if you think someone is overdosing!

Call Northwestern Health Unit for more information:

Toll free 1-800-830-5978