

September 27, 2024

Public Health Alert – Bromazolam and xylazine in unregulated drug supply

Situation

Toxicology report in Fort Frances showed bromazolam and xylazine present when reported substance used was fentanyl. Xylazine is a medication used by veterinarians for pain relief, sedation, and muscle relaxation of large animals. Bromazolam is a short-acting benzodiazepine-related drug. Both are not approved for human use.

Due to proximity of communities and frequent travel, these substances could be in other communities as well.

Issue

In combination with opioids, these drugs both increase the risk of dangerous suppression of vitals including slowing down of breathing, blood pressure, and heart rate.

All three substances have the potential for overdose. Naloxone only works on opioid substances.

Actions requested

Be aware and make locum or agency health care providers aware of this possible risk in order to educate patients, and to respond to related health emergencies.

Contact

Donna Stanley, RN BN CIC
Director, Health Protection
Northwestern Health Unit