OVERDOSE RESPONSE CENTER

Delaware Client/Patient Information Bulletin

#2023-02a

XYLAZINE (ZY-lah-zeen)

What is Xylazine or "Tranq Dope"

- Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer, increasingly cut in fentanyl and heroin, known by the street name "Tranq Dope" or "Tranq."
- Xylazine is a long-lasting sedative, added to opioids to increase potency. It cannot be seen when mixed, so individuals may not be aware of its presence.
- Xylazine is a health hazard to humans. It can lead to oversedation and death during an overdose. When repeatedly injected, xylazine can also cause severe ulcers and skin infections that spread and worsen quickly.

Harm Reduction

- It is important to know if xylazine is in your supply before using, testing strips may be available to you.
- Avoid injecting directly into or around the edges of existing wounds



Negative
Xylazine is not detected

- Seek treatment for wounds as soon as they become visible.



Positive
Xylazine is detected



- Engage with the Syringe Services Program, if needed, for sterile syringes.

What to do in an Overdose with Xylazine

- Call 911 and stay with the person until emergency medical services arrives.
- Administer naloxone (Narcan), and follow the same response steps as normal for an opioid overdose. Using naloxone is important, even when xylazine is expected, to help restore a person's normal breathing.
- Remember, the purpose of naloxone is to restore normal breathing, not wake them up.
- The person's breathing may return after receiving naloxone, but continue to monitor closely until help arrives, as the sedating effects of xylazine can last 6-8 hours.
- If the person is not breathing after naloxone (Narcan) administration, or is having difficulty breathing, continue to give rescue breaths.
- If someone has passed out but is still breathing, put them in the recovery position (shown here) and continue to watch their breathing until help arrives.



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