

Emerging Drug Trends

Two adulterants (*adulterant = added substance*), **medetomidine** and **orphine compounds**, are being seen more frequently in the Southwest Ohio drug supply. Medetomidine is an animal tranquilizer up to 100x more powerful than xylazine (tranq). Orphines are opiates that can be up to 10x more powerful than fentanyl. These drugs are often snorted or injected with other drugs such as fentanyl or heroin, and can produce unusual or severe symptoms.

When treating suspected overdose, recognize that patients with certain adulterants may have abnormal responses to naloxone (may require larger doses or be unresponsive to naloxone altogether). **Follow Standing Orders and be proactive about ventilating all patients with respiratory depression. Naloxone should be administered to all patients with suspected opiate overdose, as it may be effective in reversing opiate-caused respiratory depression.**

	Medetomidine	Orphine Compounds
Type of Drug	Tranquilizer	Opiate
Overdose Symptoms	Profound sedation, hypotension, bradycardia, rapid onset withdrawal (as soon as 1-2 hours after use)	Respiratory depression
Response to Naloxone	Naloxone is not effective in reversing medetomidine's effects	Naloxone may be effective in large doses
Treatment for EMS	Follow Standing Orders (up to 4mg Naloxone, can repeat every 2 min)	



